Lakeside Medical Center

Community Health Needs Assessment

2022

Glades Region

FAR WESTERN COMMUNITIES OF
PALM BEACH COUNTY, FLORIDA

GLADES REGION

COMMUNITY HEALTH NEEDS ASSESSMENT

2022

Lakeside Medical Center
Health Care District Palm Beach County

Health Care District
PALM BEACH COUNTY

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Prepared by:

HCSEF
Health Council of Southeast Florida

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Acknowledgements

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This Glades Region Community Health Assessment is dedicated to the residents of The Glades, including those who live in Belle Glades, Canal Point, Pahokee, and South Bay.

"The greatness of a community is most accurately measured by the compassionate action of its members."

- Coretta Scott King

Executive Summary

The goal of Glades Region Community Health Needs Assessment is to identify unmet health needs of community residents and to inform and guide future health planning initiatives to meet those needs within four communities in the Glades Region of Palm Beach County. The Health Council of Southeast Florida (HCSEF) was engaged by the Health Care District of Palm Beach County, Lakeside Medical Center and the Florida Department of Health in Palm Beach County to facilitate a comprehensive, county-wide health needs assessment for Palm Beach County. Additional indicators and data were collected specific to four identified zip codes in the Glades Region to glean more insight into the unique needs of these Western Palm Beach County communities. HCSEF conducted a comprehensive review of secondary data sources to obtain the most reliable and current information for this Glades Region Community Health Assessment. HCSEF also collected, compiled and analyzed primary data to capture the community's perspective. This Community Health Needs Assessment is required by the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act (PPACA).

This report is organized into four main sections and their description and highlights can be seen in the table below.

Table 1: Community Health Assessment Highlights

Section	Description	Highlights
Demographic and Socioeconomic Profile	The Demographic and Socioeconomic Profile includes data on many of the key demographic and social and economic status indicators, such as population, income, poverty status, educational attainment, employment, housing and transportation	• In 2019, **the Glades Region had a population of 37,584**, representing 2.6% of Palm Beach County's total population. • The Glades Region is comprised of about 58% Black residents and 30% Hispanic residents (of any race) • The Glades Region has a **higher proportion of individuals who graduated high school (including equivalency)** compared to the county • The **average median earnings** for workers in the Glades Region was $21,000 in 2019
Health Status Profile	The Health Status Profile provides details on various indicators including: maternal and child health (such as prenatal care, birth rates, infant and fetal mortality, child immunization rates); behavioral health; hospital utilization; and morbidity and mortality trends.	• In 2020, the **leading causes of death** in the Glades Region included cardiovascular diseases, cancer, nutritional and metabolic diseases, and respiratory diseases • In 2020, the **top principal diagnoses** in the Hospital Emergency Departments among Glades Region residents included acute upper respiratory infection, chest pain, hypertensive chronic kidney disease, urinary tract infections, influenza, and COVID-19

Health Resources Availability and Access Profile	The Health Resources Availability and Access Profile presents information pertaining to the obtainability of health care resources in Palm Beach County and includes information on health insurance coverage, Federally Qualified Health Centers (FQHCs), and medically underserved populations and areas (MUPs/MUAs).	• In 2020, there were 18,264 **emergency department visits** among Glades Region residents, accounting for 3.7% of all emergency department visits in the county • With respect to **primary care health professional shortage** areas, Belle Glade/Pahokee's Low-Income Migrant Farmworker Population Health Professional Shortage Area (HPSA) had a HPSA score of 15 out of 25, indicating a high need • In terms of **dental health professional shortage** areas, The Belle Glade Low-Income Population HPSA had a HPSA score of 23 out of 26, indicating a very high need • When looking at **mental health professional shortage** areas, the Belle Glade/Pahokee High Needs Geographic HPSA had an HPSA score of 18 out of 25, indicating a high need
Community Perspective	The Community Perspective section includes insight gleaned from individuals and organizations in the community through key informant interviews and focus groups.	• Focus groups were conducted with a total of 59 Glades Region residents who mentioned that **diabetes, cancer, asthma, substance use, heart disease, and poor mental health** were among the top health issues with which they, their families, or their community struggle • Key informant interviews were conducted with stakeholders who serve the Glades Region. During these interviews, common themes around the **challenges that the community faces when trying to improve or maintain their health** included: lack of economic mobility, the lived and built environment, and the lack of convenient access to care, including specialty care

Methodology

In 2021, the Health Care District of Palm Beach County and the Florida Department of Health in Palm Beach County engaged the Health Council of Southeast Florida (HCSEF) to facilitate a comprehensive community health assessment for both Palm Beach County and the Glades Region. The assessment focuses on the information specific to the Glades Region in an effort to identify health indicators within the community that present areas of concern, gaps in care, or services and opportunities for improvement.

The Glades Region Health Assessment includes information on the following areas:

- Demographics characteristics
- Socioeconomic characteristics
- COVID-19
- Maternal and child health
- Mental Health
- Death, illness, and injury
- Infectious disease
- Health resource availability and access

This report includes quantitative secondary data from national, state and local database systems and primary qualitative data. Quantitative data were obtained from secondary sources, including but not limited to the: U.S. Census Bureau, Florida Agency for Health Care Administration (AHCA), Florida Department of Health (FDOH), Florida Department of Children and Families (DCF), Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), Florida's Bureau of Vital Statistics, Florida Department of Juvenile Justice and Florida Department of Education. Quantitative data tables and figures in this report are formatted to facilitate review, examination and utilization by the community. In many cases, the data, as it was gathered from the source, contained confidence intervals or margins of error, which are statistical calculations that refer to the potential variation in the numbers shown when the data is gathered from a subset of the population. These have been omitted from this assessment in an effort to make the data more approachable to the community. Some sources are only available for certain years based on data collection timelines therefore, results from those sources may be presented in varying years or multi-year estimates. Where available, five-year estimates from the US. Census Bureau were used to capture the most complete data for the report. In addition, the most recent full-year data sets were used for indicators throughout the report. Data is presented throughout the report in as much detail as possible, including data disaggregated by race, ethnicity, sex, age, or Census County Division (CCD).

The qualitative data are a result of primary data collection efforts through local public health system assessments, focus groups and key informant interviews. Data was collected, analyzed and compiled for this assessment to enable and guide Palm Beach County service providers, educators, planners, funders and community leaders in identifying areas within the community that should be addressed to improve the health and wellbeing of Glades Region residents.

Demographic and Socioeconomic Profile

The geographic region commonly referred to as "The Glades" (also referred in this assessment as the "Glades Region") is in the western part of Palm Beach County and along the southeastern rim of Lake Okeechobee. Four communities make up this vast and mostly agricultural region: South Bay, Belle Glade, Canal Point and Pahokee.

The City of South Bay is settled at the crossroads of East-West State Road 80 and North-South U.S. 27 intersect. The city is a haven for agriculture and recreation, with its rich black soil and vast lake waters. Although the population in Palm Beach County has increased significantly in the last decade, South Bay has remained smaller with an estimated 5,532 residents within its city limits.

Belle Glade is the largest city within the 2,862,000-acre subtropical Everglades in the heart of Florida. The city was incorporated in 1928 with a population of less than 500 at the time.[1] That population has grown to over 23,000. From its incorporation to present day, agriculture has played a significant role in the area's development.

Canal Point was founded in 1914 and is located on the Southeast shore of Lake Okeechobee in Northwest Unincorporated Palm Beach County. It is a census-designated place (CDP) with a population of 367 residents.

The City of Pahokee was founded in the early 1900's and was named after the Seminole word "Pahokee" meaning "grassy waters."[2] In 1992, Pahokee was incorporated as a city by the Municipal Government. That population has grown to over 8,000. It is a relatively small city with a total area of 5.4 square miles.

As of 2019, these four communities have a combined population of 37,584, which makes up slightly less than 3% of the Palm Beach County population. Forty-seven percent of the population in Glades Region identify as African American and over a quarter identify as Hispanic or Latino, which is higher than the county. This region is also federally designated as a rural, and rural communities present with unique challenges compared to urban areas.

Demographics include factors such as race and ethnicity, age, English language proficiency, household type, population density, and more. All of these factors have an influence on health outcomes.[3] The aim of the demographic and socioeconomic profile is to provide context for the remaining sections by providing an overview of the demographic and socioeconomic characteristics of the residents of South Bay, Belle Glade, Canal Point and Pahokee. To aid in the identification of barriers and gaps, regional data is presented alongside county data when applicable. The selected indicators provide background context for specific health needs in the community and provide information imperative to the identification of barriers and gaps in the health care system. It is important to note that although the county is not designated rural by federal entities, the Glades Region has been denoted as a state-designated priority rural area. South Bay, Belle Glade, and Pahokee are also designated rural areas of critical economic concern by the state.

Demographic Characteristics

[1] City of Belle Glade Florida. (n.d.). *About Our History*. Retrieved from https://www.bellegladegov.com/community/page/about-our-history
[2] City of Pahokee Florida.(n.d.) *About Pahokee.* Retrieved from https://www.cityofpahokee.com/
[3] Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. (2020). *Populations and vulnerabilities.* Retrieved from https://ephtracking.cdc.gov/showPcMain.action

Population

Total Population

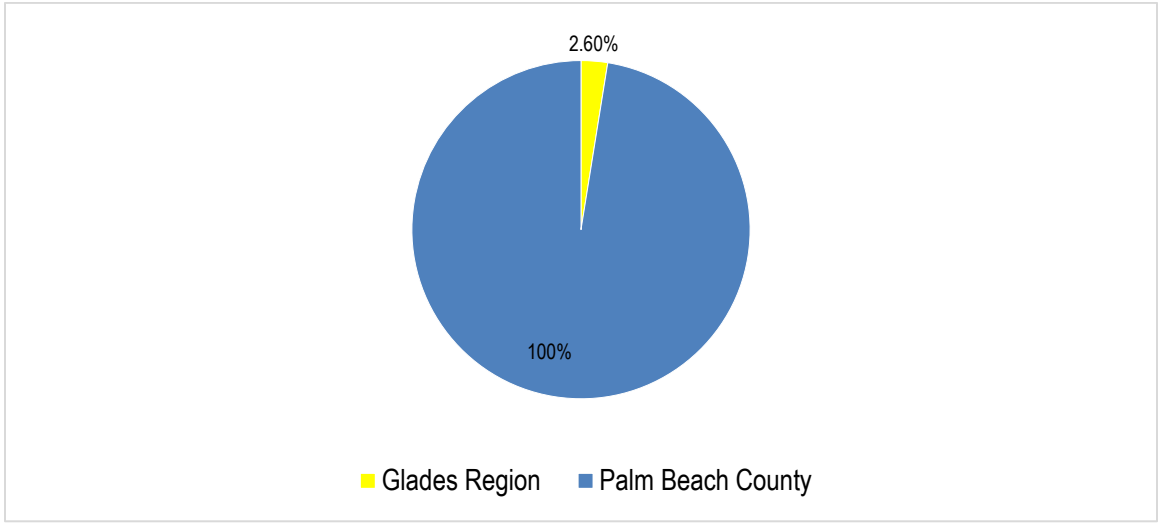
The table below shows the total population in the Glades Region of Palm Beach County in 2019. According to the 2019 American Community Survey conducted by the U.S. Census Bureau, the Glades Region made up 2.6% of Palm Beach County's population. Overall, the Glades Region had 37,584 residents residing in ZIP codes: 33430, 33438, 33476, and 33493.

Table 2:Total Population, Glades Region and Palm Beach County, 5-Year Estimate, 2019

Palm Beach County	Glades Region (33430, 33438, 33476, 33493)	
Population	Population	Percent of Palm Beach County's Population
1,465,027	37,584	2.6%

Source: U.S Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 2019
Compiled by: Health Council of Southeast Florida, 2021

Figure 1: Total Population, Glades Region and Palm Beach County, 2019



Source: U.S Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 2019

Population by ZIP Code

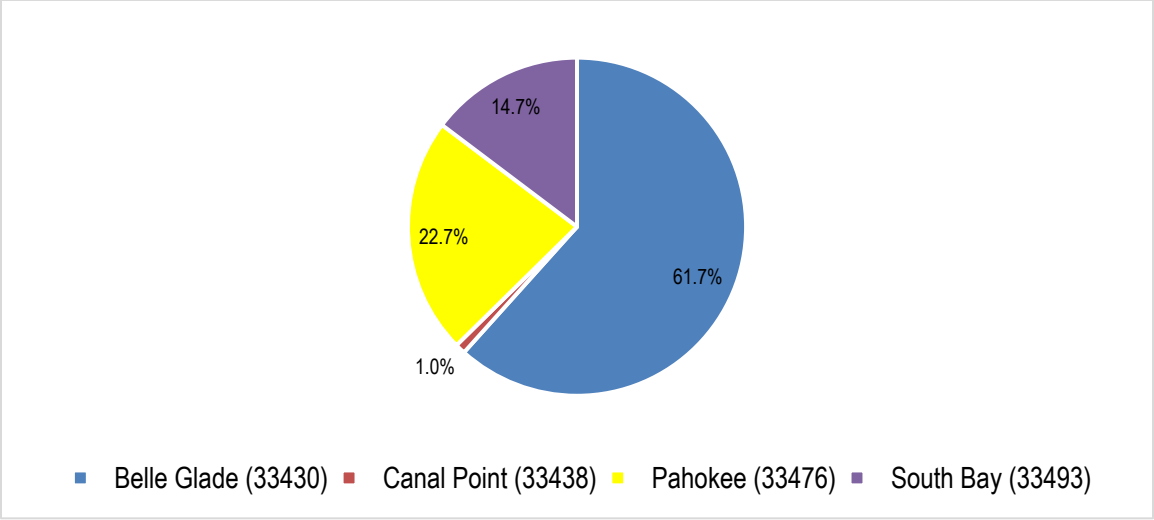
This table depicts the Glades Region ZIP codes and their respective populations in 2019. Among the Glades Region ZIP codes, Belle Glade (33430) made up the largest portion of the Glades Region population in 2019, with 23,172 residents or 61.7% of the Glades Region population. Canal Point is the smallest of the cities, with 367 residents or 1.0% of the Glades Region population.

Table 3: Population by ZIP Code, Glades Region, 5-Year Estimate, 2019

Area	Count	Percent
Glades Region	37,584	100%
Belle Glade (33430)	23,172	61.7%
Canal Point (33438)	367	1.0%
Pahokee (33476)	8,513	22.7%
South Bay (33493)	5,532	14.7%

Source: U.S Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 2019
Compiled by: Health Council of Southeast Florida, 2021

Figure 2: Total Population by ZIP Code, Glades Region, 2019



Source: U.S Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 2019

Population by Age

By 2030, one out of every six people will be aged sixty years or older.[4] The table below shows the population by age in the Glades Region of Palm Beach County in 2019. Among the Glades Region ZIP codes, Canal Point (33438) had the oldest median age of 48.7 years, exceeding the county's median age by nearly four years. Pahokee had the youngest median age among cities in the Glades Region, with a median age of 31.2 years.

Table 4: Population by Age, Glades Region and Palm Beach County, 5-Year Estimate, 2019

Age	Palm Beach County		Belle Glade (33430)		Canal Point (33438)		Pahokee (33476)		South Bay (33493)	
	Count	Percent	Count	Percent	Count	Percent	Count	Percent	Count	Percent
Total population	1,465,027	100%	23,172	100%	367	100%	8,513	100%	5,532	100%
Under 5 years	75,202	5.1%	2,045	8.8%	0	0.0%	766	9.0%	108	2.0%
5 to 9 years	77,203	5.3%	2,073	8.9%	10	2.7%	448	5.3%	139	2.5%
10 to 14 years	79,435	5.4%	1,575	6.8%	10	2.7%	680	8.0%	134	2.4%
15 to 19 years	81,596	5.6%	1,439	6.2%	9	2.5%	539	6.3%	112	2.0%
20 to 24 years	79,597	5.4%	1,708	7.4%	56	15.3%	837	9.8%	338	6.1%
25 to 34 years	174,466	11.9%	3,853	16.6%	26	7.1%	1,360	16.0%	1,202	21.7%
35 to 44 years	168,510	11.5%	2,203	9.5%	66	18.0%	999	11.7%	1,344	24.3%
45 to 54 years	190,924	13.0%	2,853	12.3%	28	7.6%	872	10.2%	1,032	18.7%
55 to 59 years	98,675	6.7%	1,238	5.3%	9	2.5%	415	4.9%	472	8.5%
60 to 64 years	93,375	6.4%	1,232	5.3%	56	15.3%	679	8.0%	283	5.1%
65 to 74 years	168,626	11.5%	1,934	8.3%	77	21.0%	466	5.5%	247	4.5%
75 to 84 years	118,401	8.1%	736	3.2%	20	5.4%	306	3.6%	99	1.8%
85 years and over	59,017	4.0%	283	1.2%	0	0.0%	146	1.7%	22	0.4%
Median age (years)	--	44.8	31.8	--	48.7	--	31.2	--	40.5	--

Source: U.S Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 2019
Compiled by: Health Council of Southeast Florida, 2021

[4] World Health Organization. (2021). *Ageing and health.* Retrieved from https://www.who.int/news-room/fact-sheets/detail/ageing-and-health

Population by Race and Ethnicity

Health disparities exist among certain racial and ethnic populations, including poorer health outcomes, disproportionate access to care, and overall inequities related to the diagnosis and treatment of health conditions. To that end, certain racial and ethnic populations suffer from higher rates of chronic disease and premature death as compared to their White counterparts.[5] For these reasons, it is important to understand the racial and ethnic makeup of a community's population as a whole.

The following table shows the population by race and ethnicity in the Glades Region of Palm Beach County in 2019. Among the Glades Region ZIP codes, over half of the population was Black or African American in Belle Glade (57.5%), Pahokee (66.4%), and South Bay (52.9%). Over half of the residents in Canal Point were of Hispanic or Latino (54.8%) origin.

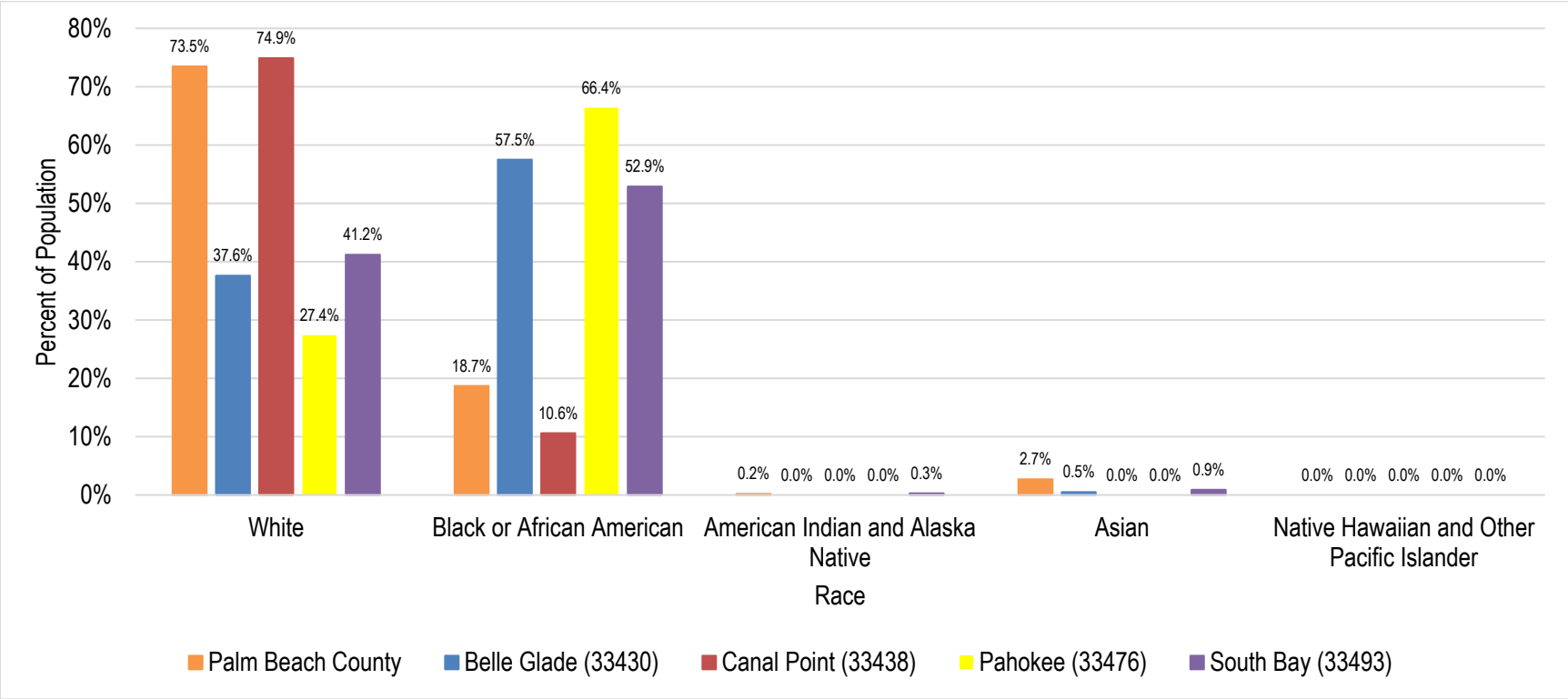
Table 5: Population by Race and Ethnicity, Glades Region and Palm Beach County, 5-Year Estimate, 2019

	Palm Beach County	Belle Glade (33430)		Canal Point (33438)		Pahokee (33476)		South Bay (33493)	
	Percent	Count	Percent	Count	Percent	Count	Percent	Count	Percent
Total population	1,465,027	23,172	100%	367	100%	8,513	100%	5,532	100%
Race									
White	73.5%	8,723	37.6%	275	74.9%	2,336	27.4%	2,279	41.2%
Black or African American	18.7%	13,330	57.5%	39	10.6%	5,654	66.4%	2,926	52.9%
American Indian and Alaska Native	0.2%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	17	0.3%
Asian	2.7%	110	0.5%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	52	0.9%
Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%
Two or more races	2.3%	354	1.5%	44	12.0%	39	0.5%	124	2.2%
Ethnicity									
Hispanic or Latino (of any race)	22.4%	7,789	33.6%	201	54.8%	1,925	22.6%	1,291	23.3%
Not Hispanic or Latino	77.6%	15,383	66.4%	166	45.2%	6,588	77.4%	4,241	76.7%

Source: U.S Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 2019
Compiled by: Health Council of Southeast Florida, 2021

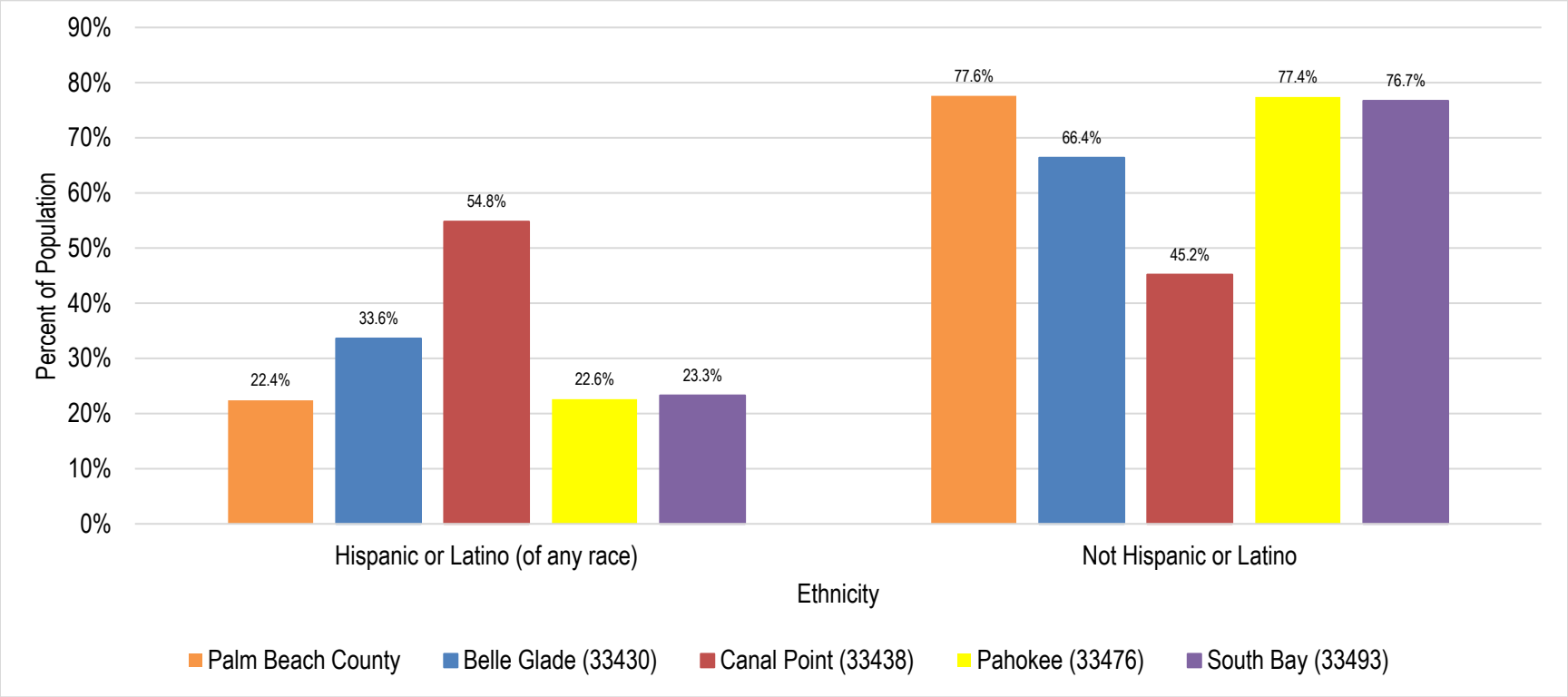
[5] Baciu A, Negussie Y, Geller A, et al. (2017). Communities in Action: Pathways to Health Equity. National Academies Press (US); The State of Health Disparities in the United States. Retrieved from: https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/books/NBK425844/

Figure 3: Population by Race, Glades Region and Palm Beach County, 2019



Source: U.S Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 2019

Figure 4: Population by Ethnicity, Glades Region and Palm Beach County, 2019



Source: U.S Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 2019

Population by Sex

Sex is an important characteristic to consider when planning and implementing health interventions and programs in the community, because it is shown to be a significant determinant of health status and health outcomes. Susceptibility to disease may vary by sex. For example, about 80% of those affected by autoimmune diseases are female, but autoimmune conditions in males are typically more severe.[6] Health-seeking behaviors, thus health care utilization, may also vary between males and females.

The table below depicts the Palm Beach County and Glades Region populations by sex in 2019. Among the Glades Region ZIP codes, South Bay reported the largest differences, with 84.9% of the population reporting as male and 15.1% reporting as female in 2019.

Table 6: Population by Sex, Glades Region and Palm Beach County, 5-Year Estimate, 2019

	Palm Beach County		Belle Glade (33430)		Canal Point (33438)		Pahokee (33476)		South Bay (33493)	
	Count	Percent	Count	Percent	Count	Percent	Count	Percent	Count	Percent
Total population	1,465,027	100%	23,172	100%	367	100%	8,513	100%	5,532	100%
Male	710,241	48.5%	11,607	50.1%	185	50.4%	4,843	56.9%	4,698	84.9%
Female	754,786	51.5%	11,565	49.9%	182	49.6%	3,670	43.1%	834	15.1%

Source: U.S Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 2019
Compiled by: Health Council of Southeast Florida, 2021

[6] National Institute of Health. (2016). *Sex and gender: how being male or female can affect your health.* Retrieved from https://newsinhealth.nih.gov/2016/05/sex-gender

Population by Census County Division (CCD)

A Census County Division (CCD) is an established area set by the U.S. Census Bureau and state and local governments. CCDs offer a way to group smaller sub-sections of the county, which can be beneficial in understanding the health of certain regions. There are eleven CCDs in Palm Beach County.

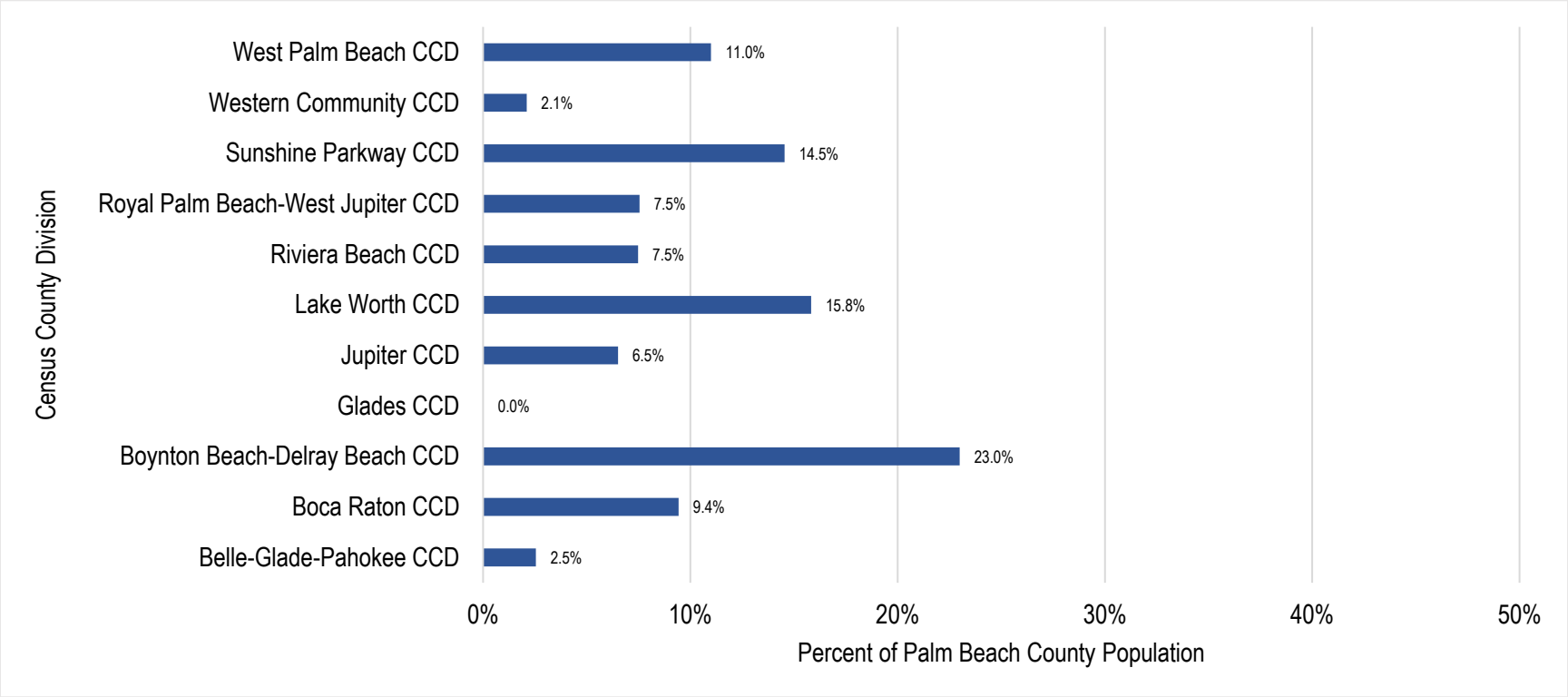
The following table shows the population by CCD in Palm Beach County in 2019. The Glades CCD is the smallest, with 309 residents, followed by the Belle Glade-Pahokee CCD with 37,326 residents and the Western Community CCD with 30,844 residents.

Table 7: Population by Census County Division (CCD), Palm Beach County CCDs, 5-Year Estimate, 2019

Census County Division	Count	Percent
Total Population	1,465,027	100%
Belle Glade-Pahokee CCD	37,326	2.5%
Boca Raton CCD	138,198	9.4%
Boynton Beach-Delray Beach CCD	336,806	23.0%
Glades CCD	309	0.0%
Jupiter CCD	95,352	6.5%
Lake Worth CCD	231,897	15.8%
Riviera Beach CCD	109,559	7.5%
Royal Palm Beach-West Jupiter CCD	110,537	7.5%
Sunshine Parkway CCD	213,091	14.5%
Western Community CCD	30,844	2.1%
West Palm Beach CCD	161,108	11.0%

Source: U.S Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 2019
Compiled by: Health Council of Southeast Florida, 2021

Figure 5: Population by Census County Division, Palm Beach County CCDs, 2019



Source: U.S Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 2019

Population by Place of Birth

A person's place of birth can influence cultural preferences and language, and culture itself can influence health decisions, making it an important consideration when analyzing the health of a community. The table below shows the population by place of birth in the Glades Region of Palm Beach County in 2019. The first table depicts the foreign-born population by place of birth globally, while the second table focuses on those born in the Americas. Among the Glades Region ZIP codes, Belle Glade had the highest count of foreign-born residents with 6,990, while Canal Point had the lowest with 58. Most foreign-born residents in the Glades Region ZIP codes were born in the Americas, specifically Latin America (N=9,161).

Table 8: Population by Place of Birth, Glades Region and Palm Beach County, 5-Year Estimate, 2019

	Palm Beach County	Belle Glade (33430)	Canal Point (33438)	Pahokee (33476)	South Bay (33493)
Total Foreign-Born Residents	371,893	6,990	58	1,400	1,041
Europe	41,527	7	0	14	6
Northern Europe	9,197	0	0	0	0
Western Europe	8,919	0	0	0	6
Eastern Europe	15,918	0	0	0	0
Asia	35,129	157	0	0	52
Eastern Asia	6,993	0	0	0	0
South Central Asia	10,373	87	0	0	52
South Eastern Asia	10,475	0	0	0	0
Western Asia	7,145	31	0	0	0
Africa	7,544	0	0	49	19
Eastern Africa	1,219	0	0	0	0
Middle Africa	228	0	0	0	0
Southern Africa	2,462	0	0	19	19
Western Africa	1,279	0	0	0	0
Oceania	762	0	0	0	0

Source: U.S Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 2019
Compiled by: Health Council of Southeast Florida, 2021

Table 9: Population by Place of Birth - Americas, Glades Region and Palm Beach County, 5-Year Estimate, 2019

	Palm Beach County	Belle Glade (33430)	Canal Point (33438)	Pahokee (33476)	South Bay (33493)
Total Foreign-Born Residents	371,893	6,990	58	1,400	1,041
Americas	286,931	6,826	58	1,337	964
Latin America	275,522	6,826	58	1,337	940
Caribbean	143,371	4,145	0	353	538
Bahamas	1,478	5	0	0	30
Barbados	850	69	0	0	7
Cuba	36,112	924	0	0	215
Dominica	745	35	0	0	0
Dominican Republic	8,218	161	0	0	31
Grenada	408	0	0	0	0
Haiti	62,953	2,390	0	5	101
Jamaica	26,891	502	0	298	129
St. Vincent and the Grenadines	99	0	0	0	3
Trinidad and Tobago	3,964	0	0	10	11
West Indies	385	0	0	0	0
Other Caribbean	1,268	59	0	40	11
Central America	64,511	2,614	49	969	308
Belize	199	0	0	0	0
Costa Rica	1,013	22	0	0	0
El Salvador	6,491	134	0	0	0
Guatemala	19,389	160	0	0	31
Honduras	8,489	45	41	55	32
Mexico	24,123	2,079	8	867	233
Nicaragua	4,037	174	0	47	12

Panama	770	0	0	0	0
Other Central America	0	0	0	0	0
South America	67,640	67	9	15	94
Argentina	4,889	0	0	5	12
Bolivia	1,024	0	0	0	0
Brazil	12,514	8	0	0	5
Chile	1,554	22	9	0	0
Colombia	23,550	7	0	0	65
Ecuador	4,153	0	0	0	0
Guyana	2,100	0	0	0	0
Peru	7,722	0	0	0	0
Uruguay	2,061	18	0	0	0
Venezuela	7,689	12	0	10	12
Other South America	384	0	0	0	0
Northern America	11,409	0	0	0	24
Canada	11,250	0	0	0	24
Other Northern America	159	0	0	0	0

Source: U.S Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 2019
Compiled by: Health Council of Southeast Florida, 2021

Population by Language Spoken at Home

Language is an important consideration when designing, implementing, and improving health interventions, marketing campaigns, and programs. For those who do not speak English, language can be a barrier to accessing and receiving quality medical care. It is important to consider languages spoken at home when evaluating and understanding health in the community.

The following table shows languages spoken at home among residents in the Glades Region of Palm Beach County in 2019. Among Glades Region residents who spoke a language other than English, Spanish was the most popular language spoken at home; 31.2% in Belle Glade, 49.6% in Canal Point, 19.5% in Pahokee, and 21.9% in South Bay.

Table 10: Languages Spoken at Home, Glades Region and Palm Beach County, 5-Year Estimate, 2019

	Palm Beach County		Belle Glade (33430)		Canal Point (33438)		Pahokee (33476)		South Bay (33493)	
	Count	Percent	Count	Percent	Count	Percent	Count	Percent	Count	Percent
Population 5 years and over	1,389,825	--	21,127	--	367	--	7,747	--	5,424	--
English only	943,164	67.9%	10,949	51.8%	185	50.4%	5,993	77.4%	4,024	74.2%
Language other than English	446,661	32.1%	10,178	48.2%	182	49.6%	1,754	22.6%	1,400	25.8%
Speak English less than "very well"	185,518	13.3%	6,362	30.1%	67	18.3%	997	12.9%	763	14.1%
Spanish	264,670	19.0%	6,585	31.2%	182	49.6%	1,514	19.5%	1,189	21.9%
Speak English less than "very well"	116,157	8.4%	4,077	19.3%	67	18.3%	850	11.0%	653	12.0%
Other Indo-European languages	145,936	10.5%	3,355	15.9%	0	0.0%	143	1.8%	199	3.7%
Speak English less than "very well"	56,161	4.0%	2,172	10.3%	0	0.0%	102	1.3%	103	1.9%
Asian and Pacific Islander languages	20,826	1.5%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	5	0.1%
Speak English less than "very well"	9,441	0.7%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%
Other languages	15,229	1.1%	238	1.1%	0	0.0%	97	1.3%	7	0.1%
Speak English less than "very well"	3,759	0.3%	113	0.5%	0	0.0%	45	0.6%	7	0.1%

Source: U.S Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 2019
Compiled by: Health Council of Southeast Florida, 2021

Households

Housing is a critical component affecting the health and well-being of a community. Research shows that community-wide efforts to stabilize housing improve health outcomes and decrease health care costs for residents.[7] Understanding the influences of housing on health can help policy makers and public health leaders address this social determinant of health.

The chart below depicts the housing characteristics in Palm Beach County and the Glades Region in 2019. In Belle Glade, 69.9% of units are occupied by renters and, in Pahokee, 65.4% of units are occupied by renters. Across Belle Glade (6.9), Canal Point (64), Pahokee (2.1), and South Bay (12.7), rental vacancy rates greatly exceeded the rates among homeowners. Among these areas, the average household size of owner-occupied units was typically higher than that of renter-occupied units.

It is important to note that the data displayed below include pre-pandemic figures. It is widely known that the COVID-19 pandemic and the associated loss of employment has exacerbated both housing insecurity and the lack of stable and affordable housing.[8] As such, once more recent data becomes available the actual impact of the pandemic on housing in the Glades Region can be assessed.

[7] Taylor, L. (2018). Housing and health: an overview of the literature. *Health Affairs*. Retrieved from https:// 10.1377/hpb20180313.396577

[8] CGI Inc. (2020). The impact of COVID-19 on public housing authorities: Reinventing as digital organizations to meet the challenges ahead. Retrieved from https://www.cgi.com/sites/default/files/2020-09/covid-19_impact_on_the_affordable_housing_industry_2.pdf

Table 11: Households, Glades Region and Palm Beach County, 5-Year Estimate, 2019

	Palm Beach County		Belle Glade (33430)		Canal Point (33438)		Pahokee (33476)		South Bay (33493)	
	Count	Percent	Count	Percent	Count	Percent	Count	Percent	Count	Percent
Total housing units	686,410	100%	8,675	100%	121	100%	3,019	100%	724	100%
Occupied housing units	554,095	80.7%	7,498	86.4%	105	86.8%	2,665	88.3%	483	66.7%
Vacant housing units	132,315	19.3%	1,177	13.6%	16	13.2%	354	11.7%	241	33.3%
Homeowner vacancy rate	1.9	--	0	--	0	--	1.7	--	3.4	--
Rental vacancy rate	8.2	--	6.9	--	64	--	2.1	--	12.7	--
Owner-occupied	381,611	68.9%	2,259	30.1%	96	91.4%	921	34.6%	255	52.8%
Renter-occupied	172,484	31.1%	5,239	69.9%	9	8.6%	1,744	65.4%	228	47.2%
Average household size of owner-occupied unit	2.53	--	3.39	--	3.64	--	3.35	--	3.44	--
Average household size of renter-occupied unit	2.78	--	2.81	--	2	--	2.82	--	3.46	--

Source: U.S Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 2019
Compiled by: Health Council of Southeast Florida, 2021

Population Living with a Disability

Residents living with a disability face increased challenges based on the type of limitation and condition underlying the disability. These challenges cause health and socioeconomic disparities, creating complex needs and situations for residents. Research shows that adults with disabilities are four times more likely to report their health as either fair or poor compared to people with no disabilities.[9] It is important to understand the challenges facing these residents to plan and implement appropriate health interventions and programs.

The following table depicts the percent of the population living with a disability in Palm Beach County and each of the eleven Census County Divisions (CCD). The Belle Glade-Pahokee CCD and the Western Community CCD had 13.7% and 10.6% of the population living with a disability, respectively, while the Glades CCD had the lowest percentage of the population living with a disability (6.1%).

Table 12: Population Living with a Disability, by Census County Division, Palm Beach County CCDs, 5-Year Estimate, 2019

Geographic Area	Population with a Disability	Percent of Population with a Disability
Palm Beach County	178,306	12.3%
Belle Glade-Pahokee CCD	4,427	13.7%
Boca Raton CCD	15,655	11.4%
Boynton Beach-Delray Beach CCD	50,027	14.9%
Glades CCD	19	6.1%
Jupiter CCD	9,099	9.6%
Lake Worth CCD	27,755	12.1%
Riviera Beach CCD	13,288	12.2%
Royal Palm Beach-West Jupiter CCD	11,966	10.9%
Sunshine Parkway CCD	23,121	10.9%
Western Community CCD	3,269	10.6%
West Palm Beach CCD	19,680	12.3%

Source: U.S Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 2019
Compiled by: Health Council of Southeast Florida, 2021

[9] Krahn, G. L., Walker, D. K., & Correa-De-Araujo, R. (2015). Persons with disabilities as an unrecognized health disparity population. American journal of public health, 105 Suppl 2(Suppl 2), S198–S206. https://doi.org/10.2105/AJPH.2014.302182

Population Living with a Disability, By Age and Type

The table below depicts the percent of the population living with a disability in 2019 by age and type for Palm Beach County and the Glades Region. Across all age groups in the Glades Region ZIP codes, those ages 65 years and older had a larger percentage of the population with a disability as compared to other age groups, with 12.1% in Belle Glade, 0.0% in Canal Point, 14.5% in Pahokee, and 6.5% in South Bay with a disability. Overall, ambulatory difficulties affected the most individuals with a disability in Belle Glade (7.1%) and South Bay (6.5%), while cognitive difficulty affected the most in Pahokee (9.1%). This was more than double the percentage affected by cognitive difficulty in South Bay (3.6%) and Canal Point (0.0%), and exceeded the percentage in Belle Glade (5.2%).

Table 13: Population with a Disability, By Age and Type, Glades Region and Palm Beach County, 5-Year Estimate, 2019

	Palm Beach County		Belle Glade (33430)		Canal Point (33438)		Pahokee (33476)		South Bay (33493)	
	Total	Percent with a disability	Total	Percent with a disability	Total	Percent with a disability	Total	Percent with a disability	Total	Percent with a disability
Total civilian noninstitutionalized population	1,451,973	12.3%	22,536	13.1%	367	10.6%	8,079	16.0%	1,673	9.1%
With a hearing difficulty	--	3.8%	--	2.6%	--	0.0%	--	2.2%	--	1.3%
Population under 18 years	281,307	0.4%	6,430	0.7%	29	0.0%	2,156	0.0%	443	0.0%
Population 18 to 64 years	829,382	1.4%	13,166	1.5%	241	0.0%	5,076	1.0%	1,000	0.6%
Population 65 years and over	341,284	12.6%	2,940	12.1%	97	0.0%	847	14.5%	230	6.5%
With a vision difficulty	--	2.3%	--	4.9%	--	2.5%	--	5.1%	--	3.2%
Population under 18 years	281,307	0.6%	6,430	1.0%	29	0.0%	2,156	0.0%	443	0.7%
Population 18 to 64 years	829,382	1.7%	13,166	5.0%	241	3.7%	5,076	5.0%	1,000	2.0%
Population 65 years and over	341,284	5.1%	2,940	13.2%	97	0.0%	847	18.9%	230	13.5%

With a cognitive difficulty	--	4.2%	--	5.2%	--	0.0%	--	9.1%	--	3.6%
Population under 18 years	206,105	2.9%	4,385	1.4%	29	0.0%	1,390	7.3%	335	0.0%
Population 18 to 64 years	829,382	3.3%	13,166	4.1%	241	0.0%	5,076	7.6%	1,000	2.4%
Population 65 years and over	341,284	7.3%	2,940	15.9%	97	0.0%	847	21.3%	230	14.3%
With an ambulatory difficulty	--	7.0%	--	7.1%	--	3.0%	--	7.8%	--	6.5%
Population under 18 years	206,105	0.4%	4,385	0.4%	29	0.0%	1,390	0.0%	335	0.0%
Population 18 to 64 years	829,382	3.6%	13,166	5.6%	241	4.6%	5,076	7.0%	1,000	4.6%
Population 65 years and over	341,284	19.3%	2,940	23.9%	97	0.0%	847	25.3%	230	23.9%
With a self-care difficulty	--	2.5%	--	2.1%	--	3.0%	--	4.0%	--	2.5%
Population under 18 years	206,105	0.7%	4,385	1.3%	29	0.0%	1,390	0.0%	335	0.0%
Population 18 to 64 years	829,382	1.2%	13,166	1.4%	241	4.6%	5,076	3.0%	1,000	2.6%
Population 65 years and over	341,284	6.8%	2,940	6.5%	97	0.0%	847	16.5%	230	5.7%
With an independent living difficulty	--	5.3%	--	4.3%	--	8.9%	--	7.5%	--	5.4%
Population 18 to 64 years	829,382	2.6%	13,166	2.5%	241	12.4%	5,076	4.3%	1,000	3.1%
Population 65 years and over	341,284	11.8%	2,940	12.3%	97	0.0%	847	26.9%	230	15.7%

Source: U.S Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 2019
Compiled by: Health Council of Southeast Florida, 2021

Socioeconomic Characteristics

Poverty

Poverty Status in the Past 12 Months, By Age and Sex

Poverty status is an indicator of need in a community. Those in poverty experience increased challenges that affect healthcare access and utilization.[10] Nationally, poverty rates among women remain higher than their male counterparts.[11]

The table below shows poverty status by age and sex in the Glades Region and Palm Beach County in 2019. In Belle Glade and South Bay, 46.4% and 34.3% of females were living below the poverty level, respectively. Overall, Pahokee had the highest percentage of residents living below the poverty level (43.0%) followed by Belle Glade (41.8%).

The Healthy People 2030 national target is to reduce the proportion of people living in poverty to 8.0%. The most recent national data shows 11.8% of the population was living below the poverty threshold in 2018. As of 2019, Canal Point (4.6%) met the target, but Belle Glade (41.8%), Pahokee (43.0%), and South Bay (30.5%) greatly exceeded the target.

It is important to note that all of the poverty-related data displayed below include pre-pandemic figures. The COVID-19 pandemic and resulting soaring unemployment rates have increased poverty rates throughout the country, with those who were already living in poverty being the hardest hit and having the hardest time recovering from the pandemic recession.[12] As such, once more recent data becomes available the actual impact of the pandemic on the prevalence of poverty in the Glades Region can be assessed.

[10] U.S. Census Bureau. (2020). Poverty rates for blacks and Hispanics reached historic lows in 2019. Retrieved from https://www.census.gov/library/stories/2020/09/poverty-rates-for-blacks-and-hispanics-reached-historic-lows-in-2019.html
[11] U.S. Census Bureau. (2019). Payday, poverty, and women. Retrieved from https://www.census.gov/library/stories/2019/09/payday-poverty-and-women.html
[12] World Economic Forum (2021). COVID-19: This is how many Americans now live below the poverty line. Retrieved from https://www.weforum.org/agenda/2021/09/poverty-america-united-states-covid-coronavirus-pandemic/

Table 14: Poverty Status in the Past 12 Months, By Age and Sex, Glades Region and Palm Beach County, 5-Year Estimate, 2019

	Palm Beach County		Belle Glade (33430)		Canal Point (33438)		Pahokee (33476)		South Bay (33493)	
	Total	Percent below poverty level	Total	Percent below poverty level	Total	Percent below poverty level	Total	Percent below poverty level	Total	Percent below poverty level
Population for whom poverty status is determined	1,444,645	12.2%	22,424	41.8%	367	4.6%	8,074	43.0%	1,673	30.5%
Age										
Under 18 years	277,916	18.1%	6,339	54.4%	29	0.0%	2,151	55.8%	443	37.9%
18 to 64 years	825,445	11.4%	13,145	36.1%	241	7.1%	5,076	39.2%	1,000	28.2%
65 years and over	341,284	9.2%	2,940	40.0%	97	0.0%	847	33.1%	230	26.1%
Sex										
Male	697,566	11.1%	10,921	36.9%	185	9.2%	4,445	45.4%	839	26.7%
Female	747,079	13.2%	11,503	46.4%	182	0.0%	3,629	40.1%	834	34.3%

Source: U.S Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 2019
Compiled by: Health Council of Southeast Florida, 2021

Poverty Status in the Past 12 Months, By Race and Ethnicity

Black and Hispanic populations are more likely to live in poverty compared to other populations. The U.S. Census reports that in 2019, Black residents made up 13.2% of the United States population but accounted for 23.8% of the population in poverty. Similarly, Hispanic residents made up 18.7% of the total United States population in 2019 but accounted for 28.1% of the population in poverty.[13] It is important to consider the complex intersection of race, ethnicity, poverty, and the increased health risks that each of these groups experience.

The table and graphs below show poverty status by race and ethnicity in the Glades Region and Palm Beach County in 2019. In 2019, nearly half of the Black or African American population was living in poverty in Belle Glade (47.7%) and Pahokee (49.0%). Of all areas in the Glades Region, Belle Glade (37.0%) and Pahokee (32.8%) had the highest percentage of Hispanic or Latino residents living in poverty.

As previously mentioned, the data below include pre-pandemic figures. The first two years of the pandemic have demonstrated that people of color disproportionately suffered from the economic impact of the pandemic.[14] As such, once more recent data becomes available the actual impact of the pandemic on the prevalence of poverty among specific racial and ethnic communities in the Glades Region can be assessed.

[13] U.S. Census Bureau. (2020). Poverty rates for blacks and Hispanics reached historic lows in 2019. Retrieved from https://www.census.gov/library/stories/2020/09/poverty-rates-for-blacks-and-hispanics-reached-historic-lows-in-2019.html

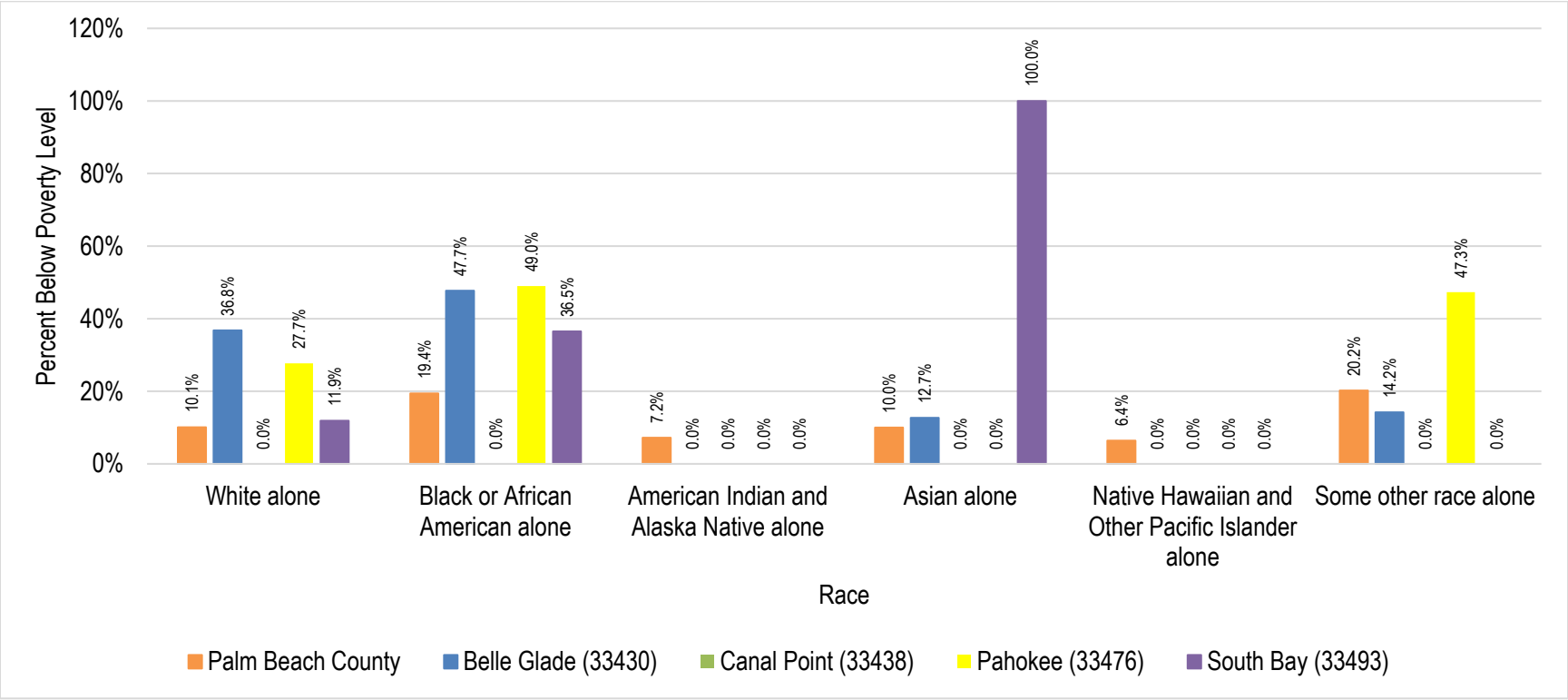
[14] Office of Human Services Policy (2021). The Impact of the first year of the COVID-19 pandemic and recession on families with low incomes. Retrieved from https://aspe.hhs.gov/sites/default/files/2021-09/low-income-covid-19-impacts.pdf

Table 15: Poverty Status in the Past 12 Months, By Race and Ethnicity, Glades Region and Palm Beach County, 5-Year Estimate, 2019

	Palm Beach County		Belle Glade (33430)		Canal Point (33438)		Pahokee (33476)		South Bay (33493)	
	Total	Percent below poverty level	Total	Percent below poverty level	Total	Percent below poverty level	Total	Percent below poverty level	Total	Percent below poverty level
Population for whom poverty status is determined	1,444,645	12.2%	22,424	41.8%	367	4.6%	8,074	43.0%	1,673	30.5%
Race										
White alone	1,065,026	10.1%	8,418	36.8%	275	0.0%	2,146	27.7%	453	11.9%
Black or African American alone	266,609	19.4%	12,919	47.7%	39	0.0%	5,405	49.0%	1,120	36.5%
American Indian and Alaska Native alone	2,963	7.2%	0	--	0	--	0	--	0	--
Asian alone	39,181	10.0%	110	12.7%	0	--	0	--	47	100.0%
Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander alone	517	6.4%	0	--	0	--	0	--	0	--
Some other race alone	37,283	20.2%	655	14.2%	9	0.0%	484	47.3%	49	0.0%
Two or more races	33,066	13.4%	322	0.0%	44	38.6%	39	5.1%	4	0.0%
Ethnicity										
Hispanic or Latino origin (of any race)	324,251	17.6%	7,646	37.0%	201	0.0%	1,833	32.8%	448	8.0%
White alone, not Hispanic or Latino	790,119	7.7%	1,678	26.5%	110	0.0%	852	29.3%	52	34.6%

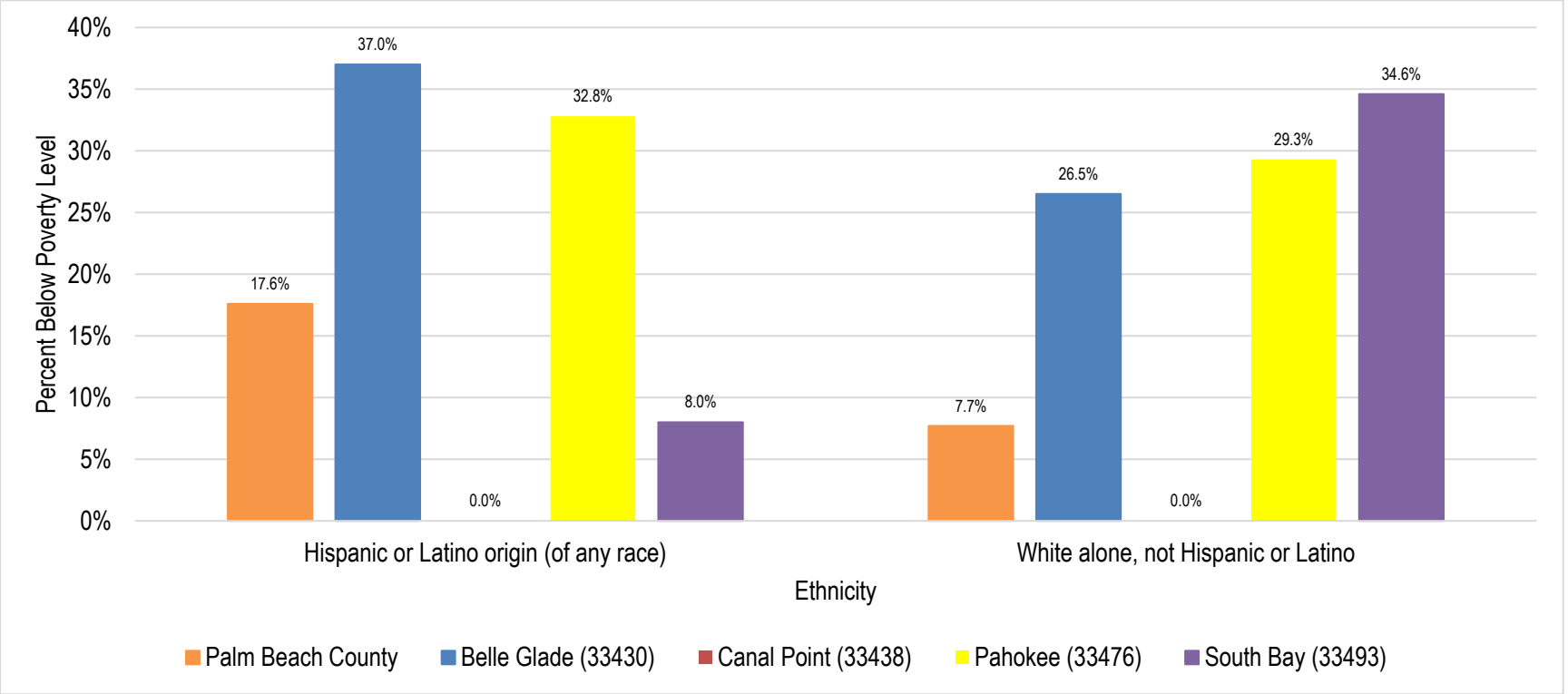
Source: U.S Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 2019
Compiled by: Health Council of Southeast Florida, 2021

Figure 6: Poverty Status in the Past 12 Months, By Race, Glades Region and Palm Beach County, 2019



Source: U.S Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 2019

Figure 7: Poverty Status in the Past 12 Months by Ethnicity, Glades Region and Palm Beach County, 2019



Source: U.S Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 2019

Family Poverty Status in the Past 12 Months

Families in poverty experience unique needs and challenges. Families in poverty may experience barriers to accessing transportation and needed services due to financial hardship. These families are also at an increased risk of living in unsafe or inadequate housing conditions, creating a further strain. Additionally, the stigma and stressors related to living in poverty can affect both parents and children individually, as well as the general family dynamic.[15]

The following table shows the family poverty status in the Glades Region and Palm Beach County in 2019. In Pahokee, 54.1% of families with a child under 18 years of age were living in poverty in 2019. Belle Glade and South Bay had similar percentages, with 47.4% of families with a child under the age of eighteen years living in poverty in Belle Glade and 37.2% in South Bay.

As previously mentioned, the data below include pre-pandemic figures. The pandemic has worsened long-standing disparities for many families, but especially for lower-income families of color.[16] As such, once more recent data becomes available the actual impact of the pandemic on the prevalence of poverty in the Glades Region can be assessed.

Table 16: Family Poverty Status in the Past 12 Months, Glades Region and Palm Beach County, 5-Year Estimate, 2019

	Palm Beach County		Belle Glade (33430)		Canal Point (33438)		Pahokee (33476)		South Bay (33493)	
	Total Population	Percent below poverty level	Total Population	Percent below poverty level	Total Population	Percent below poverty level	Total Population	Percent below poverty level	Total Population	Percent below poverty level
Families	345,298	8.4%	4,354	35.1%	96	0.0%	1,656	36.8%	349	28.4%
With related children of householder under 18 years	138,385	14.1%	2,659	47.4%	17	0.0%	916	54.1%	188	37.2%

Source: U.S Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 2019
Compiled by: Health Council of Southeast Florida, 2021

[15] Quint, J., Griffin, K. M., Kaufman, J., and Landers, P. (2018). Experiences of parents and children living in poverty. Retrieved from https://www.mdrc.org/publication/experiences-parents-and-children-living-poverty
[16] Office of Human Services Policy (2021). The Impact of the first year of the COVID-19 pandemic and recession on families with low incomes. Retrieved from https://aspe.hhs.gov/sites/default/files/2021-09/low-income-covid-19-impacts.pdf

Income

Per Capita Income and Earnings

Residents with higher income and earnings are typically able to afford adequate health insurance, obtain timely and quality healthcare services, and take part in routine medical appointments and medication regimens. As a result, higher-income individuals tend to see improved health outcomes as compared to their lower-income counterparts. Income inequality is a growing issue in the United States, resulting in increased health disparities among various populations.[17]

The following table depicts per capita income and earnings in Palm Beach County and the Glades Region in 2019. Belle Glade reported a per capita income of $13,564.00, Canal Point reported a per capita income of $22,936.00, Pahokee reported a per capita income of $12,888.00, and South Bay reported the lowest per capita income of $6,625.00 in 2019.

It is important to note that the data below include pre-pandemic figures. During the pandemic, there was a significant loss of employment and income.[18] As such, once more recent data becomes available the actual impact of the pandemic on income and earnings in the Glades Region can be assessed.

Table 17: Per Capita Income and Earnings, Glades Region and Palm Beach County, 5-Year Estimate, 2019

	Palm Beach County	Belle Glade (33430)	Canal Point (33438)	Pahokee (33476)	South Bay (33493)
Per capita income	$39,933.00	$13,564.00	$22,936.00	$12,888.00	$6,625.00
Nonfamily households	208,797	3,144	9	1,009	134
Median nonfamily income	$40,985.00	$12,307.00	--	$15,570.00	$19,063.00
Mean nonfamily income	$66,323.00	$21,586.00	--	$21,629.00	$23,537.00
Median earnings for workers	$32,308.00	$21,917.00	$23,333.00	$19,311.00	$19,439.00
Median earnings for male full-time, year-round workers	$49,093.00	$32,467.00	--	$28,239.00	$35,365.00
Median earnings for female full-time, year-round workers	$41,982.00	$26,812.00	$31,250.00	$28,829.00	$30,000.00

Source: U.S Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 2019
Compiled by: Health Council of Southeast Florida, 2021

[17] Khullar, D. & Chokshi, D. A. (2018). Health, income, and poverty: where we are and what could help. *Health Affairs.* https://doi.org/10.1377/hpb20180817.901935
[18] Office of Human Services Policy (2021). The Impact of the first year of the COVID-19 pandemic and recession on families with low incomes. Retrieved from https://aspe.hhs.gov/sites/default/files/2021-09/low-income-covid-19-impacts.pdf

Household Income and Benefits

Household income also serves as a socioeconomic indicator for healthcare access and affordability. Those with a lower household income face increased challenges in obtaining the timely medical care that they need.

The table below depicts household income and benefits in the Glades Region and Palm Beach County in 2019. The median household incomes in Belle Glade was $24,615.00, in Canal Point, it was $58,750.00, in Pahokee, it was $22,199.00, and, in South Bay, it was $31,850.00. Additionally, in 2019, 44% of residents in Pahokee used SNAP assistance, followed by 40% in South Bay, 39% in Belle Glade, and 11% in Canal Point.

As previously mentioned, the data below include pre-pandemic figures. The pandemic led to unprecedented levels of income and employment loss in recent history, rendering economic relief efforts insufficient in aiding households in need.[19] As such, once more recent data becomes available the actual impact of the pandemic on household income and benefits in the Glades Region can be assessed.

Table 18: Household Income and Benefits, Glades Region and Palm Beach County, 5-Year Estimate, 2019

	Palm Beach County		Belle Glade (33430)		Canal Point (33438)		Pahokee (33476)		South Bay (33493)	
	Count	Percent	Count	Percent	Count	Percent	Count	Percent	Count	Percent
Total households	554,095	100%	7,498	100%	105	100%	2,665	100%	483	100%
Less than $10,000	31,880	5.8%	1,891	25.2%	0	0.0%	635	23.8%	78	16.1%
$10,000 to $14,999	21,123	3.8%	790	10.5%	0	0.0%	167	6.3%	10	2.1%
$15,000 to $24,999	49,296	8.9%	1,100	14.7%	0	0.0%	618	23.2%	97	20.1%
$25,000 to $34,999	50,601	9.1%	993	13.2%	0	0.0%	426	16.0%	76	15.7%
$35,000 to $49,999	69,965	12.6%	915	12.2%	0	0.0%	323	12.1%	46	9.5%
$50,000 to $74,999	94,223	17.0%	1,009	13.5%	65	61.9%	216	8.1%	57	11.8%
$75,000 to $99,999	65,593	11.8%	293	3.9%	11	10.5%	114	4.3%	52	10.8%
$100,000 to $149,999	80,135	14.5%	325	4.3%	29	27.6%	101	3.8%	51	10.6%
$150,000 to $199,999	37,568	6.8%	143	1.9%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	10	2.1%
$200,000 or more	53,711	9.7%	39	0.5%	0	0.0%	65	2.4%	6	1.2%
Median household income	$63,299	--	$24,615	--	$58,750	--	$22,199	--	$31,850	--

[19] Office of Human Services Policy (2021). The Impact of the first year of the COVID-19 pandemic and recession on families with low incomes. Retrieved from https://aspe.hhs.gov/sites/default/files/2021-09/low-income-covid-19-impacts.pdf

Mean household income	$99,1730	--	$36,235	--	$77,640	--	$35,312	--	$60,222	--
With earnings	390,390	70.5%	5,270	70.3%	85	81.0%	1,890	70.9%	370	76.6%
Mean earnings	$95,176	--	$41,565	--	$55,575	--	$38,802	--	$66,778	--
With Social Security	223,761	40.4%	2,234	29.8%	59	56.2%	691	25.9%	162	33.5%
Mean Social Security income	$21,907	--	$12,655	--	$29,331	--	$14,125	--	$13,240	--
With retirement income	111,672	20.2%	584	7.8%	11	10.5%	194	7.3%	76	15.7%
Mean retirement income	$32,793	--	$13,136	--	--	--	$16,775	--	$20,286	--
With Supplemental Security Income	20,417	3.7%	892	11.9%	11	10.5%	463	17.4%	61	12.6%
Mean Supplemental Security Income	$10,764	--	$8,918	--	--	--	$8,187	--	$8,310	--
With cash public assistance income	11,573	2.1%	1,341	17.9%	0	0.0%	327	12.3%	70	14.5%
Mean cash public assistance income	$2,612	--	$931	--	--	--	$729	--	$1,8070	--
With Food Stamp/SNAP benefits in the past 12 months	54,457	9.8%	2,929	39.1%	11	10.5%	1,172	44.0%	192	39.8%

Source: U.S Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 2019
Compiled by: Health Council of Southeast Florida, 2021

Family Income and Benefits

Family income is another socioeconomic determinant of health. Both income and income inequality affect health outcomes. Research has shown that income inequality is associated with a number of negative health outcomes, making this an important indicator of health.[20] In 2019, Belle Glade had a median family income of $32,392.00, Canal Point had a median family income of $56,250.00, Pahokee had a median family income of $30,458.00, and South Bay had a median family income of $41.518.00.

As previously mentioned, the data below include pre-pandemic figures. The pandemic led to devastating economic effects, particularly among low income families.[21] As such, once more recent data becomes available the actual impact of the pandemic on family income and benefits in the Glades Region can be assessed.

Table 19: Family Income and Benefits, Glades Region and Palm Beach County, 5-Year Estimate, 2019

	Palm Beach County		Belle Glade (33430)		Canal Point (33438)		Pahokee (33476)		South Bay (33493)	
	Count	Percent	Count	Percent	Count	Percent	Count	Percent	Count	Percent
Families	345,298	100%	4,354	100%	96	100%	1,656	100%	349	100%
Less than $10,000	11,088	3.2%	651	15.0%	0	0.0%	244	14.7%	43	12.3%
$10,000 to $14,999	7,339	2.1%	443	10.2%	0	0.0%	82	5.0%	10	2.9%
$15,000 to $24,999	20,482	5.9%	569	13.1%	0	0.0%	312	18.8%	48	13.8%
$25,000 to $34,999	27,490	8.0%	614	14.1%	0	0.0%	369	22.3%	51	14.6%
$35,000 to $49,999	40,522	11.7%	586	13.5%	0	0.0%	248	15.0%	51	14.6%
$50,000 to $74,999	58,382	16.9%	777	17.8%	56	58.3%	178	10.7%	45	12.9%
$75,000 to $99,999	45,592	13.2%	294	6.8%	11	11.5%	91	5.5%	40	11.5%
$100,000 to $149,999	60,431	17.5%	283	6.5%	29	30.2%	67	4.0%	45	12.9%
$150,000 to $199,999	30,937	9.0%	131	3.0%	0	0.0%	7	0.4%	10	2.9%
$200,000 or more	43,035	12.5%	6	0.1%	0	0.0%	58	3.5%	6	1.7%
Median family income	$78,370	--	$32,392	--	$56,250	--	$30,458	--	$41,518	--
Mean family income	$117,097	--	$45,013	--	$79,501	--	$43,373	--	$71,758	--

Source: U.S Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 2019; Compiled by: Health Council of Southeast Florida, 2021

[20] Vilda, D., Wallace, M., Dyer, L., Harville, E., & Theall, K. (2019). Income inequality and racial disparities in pregnancy-related mortality in the US. SSM - population health, 9, 100477. https://doi.org/10.1016/j.ssmph.2019.100477

[21] Office of Human Services Policy (2021). The Impact of the first year of the COVID-19 pandemic and recession on families with low incomes. Retrieved from https://aspe.hhs.gov/sites/default/files/2021-09/low-income-covid-19-impacts.pdf

Gini Index

The Gini Index is a measurement of income distribution throughout areas within the county. A Gini Index value will vary between 0 and 1 based on resident income in the defined area. A value of 0 indicates perfect income equality, where there is an equal distribution of income among the residents. A value of 1 indicates perfect inequality, where one household possesses all of the income and other households do not have any income. The Gini Index helps identify high levels of income inequality, which may ultimately lead to slower gross domestic product growth, a reduction in economic mobility, increased individual debt, and an increase in poverty rates. Importantly, the Gini Index provided below is based on 2019 5-year estimates, so it is likely that the figures have changed as a result of the economic impacts of the pandemic.

The below chart depicts the Gini Index for Palm Beach County and the Glades Region in 2019. Pahokee, Belle Glade, and Canal Point each had higher levels of income equality than Palm Beach County, whereas South Bay had less.

Table 20: Gini Index, Glades Region and Palm Beach County, 5-Year Estimate, 2019

	Palm Beach County	Belle Glade (33430)	Canal Point (33438)	Pahokee (33476)	South Bay (33493)
Gini Index	0.5219	0.5042	0.223	0.519	0.5666

Source: U.S Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 2019
Compiled by: Health Council of Southeast Florida, 2021

Business and Employment

Employment Status

Well-paying and stable jobs increase an individual's ability to live in a safe neighborhood, obtain education for their children, secure childcare services, and purchase healthy foods. Compared to their employed counterparts, unemployed Americans are more likely to be diagnosed with depression and have poorer health outcomes, including an increased risk of developing a stress-related condition such as stroke, heart attack, heart disease, or arthritis.[22] Moreover, additional research shows that quality, stable employment is shown to reduce these health concerns, and mortality rates and rates of chronic disease are lower among employed individuals compared to unemployed individuals.[23]

The table below depicts employment status in the Glades Region and Palm Beach County in 2019. The unemployment rates in the Glades Region were as follows: Belle Glade (14.5%), Canal Point (30.0%), Pahokee (24.7%), and South Bay (11.4%).

As previously mentioned, the data below include pre-pandemic figures. The recession that resulted from the COVID-19 pandemic exacerbated unemployment rates and pre-existing employment disparities.[24] As such, once more recent data becomes available the actual impact of the pandemic on employment status in the Glades Region can be assessed.

Table 21: Employment Status, Glades Region and Palm Beach County, 5-Year Estimate, 2019

	Palm Beach County		Belle Glade (33430)		Canal Point (33438)		Pahokee (33476)		South Bay (33493)	
	Count	Percent	Count	Percent	Count	Percent	Count	Percent	Count	Percent
Population 16 years and over	1,216,589	100%	17,271	100%	347	100%	6,479	100%	5,131	100%
In labor force	727,184	59.8%	9,289	53.8%	233	67.1%	3,622	55.9%	756	14.7%
Civilian labor force	726,766	59.7%	9,289	53.8%	233	67.1%	3,622	55.9%	756	14.7%
Employed	684,112	56.2%	7,945	46.0%	163	47.0%	2,728	42.1%	670	13.1%
Unemployed	42,654	3.5%	1,344	7.8%	70	20.2%	894	13.8%	86	1.7%
Armed Forces	418	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%
Not in labor force	489,405	40.2%	7,982	46.2%	114	32.9%	2,857	44.1%	4,375	85.3%

[22] Robert Wood Johnson Foundation. (2013). How does employment, or unemployment, affect health? Retrieved from https://www.rwjf.org/en/library/research/2012/12/how-does-employment--or-unemployment--affect-health-.html

[23] Adams, J. E. (2018). Improving individual and community health through better employment opportunities. *Health affairs.* https://doi.org/10.1377/hblog20180507.274276

[24] Office of Human Services Policy (2021). The Impact of the first year of the COVID-19 pandemic and recession on families with low incomes. Retrieved from https://aspe.hhs.gov/sites/default/files/2021-09/low-income-covid-19-impacts.pdf

Civilian labor force	726,766	9,289	233	3,622	756
Unemployment Rate	5.9%	14.5%	30.0%	24.7%	11.4%

Source: U.S Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 2019
Compiled by: Health Council of Southeast Florida, 2021

Employment by Industry

Different industries are associated with varying health risks, work hours, and socioeconomic statuses of employees. Understanding a population's employment by industry can give valuable insight into the needs, relevant services, and lifestyles of residents to better target health interventions, marketing, and programs. Jobs that are typically categorized as "blue-collar" are indicative of increased physical demands and low flexibility of work hours. Alternatively, "white-collar" jobs are more likely to experience high time pressure, regular overtime, and frequent interruptions or poor work-life balance. Additionally, evidence shows that morbidity and mortality increase as social or socioeconomic status decrease. Despite this, studies have shown that social support at work and job security are not clearly related to occupational class or to socioeconomic or educational status.[25]

This table shows employment by industry in the Glades Region and Palm Beach County in 2019. Most employed residents in Palm Beach County (20.9%), Belle Glade (19.9%), Pahokee (17.6%), and South Bay (28.1%) worked in educational services, healthcare, or social services. Importantly, the patterns in employment seen below are likely to have changed as a result of the pandemic.

[25] Hämmig, O., Bauer, G.F. (2013). The social gradient in work and health: a cross-sectional study exploring the relationship between working conditions and health inequalities. *BMC Public Health (13)*,1170. https://doi.org/10.1186/1471-2458-13-1170

Table 22: Employment by Industry, Glades Region and Palm Beach County, 5-Year Estimate, 2019

	Palm Beach County		Belle Glade (33430)		Canal Point (33438)		Pahokee (33476)		South Bay (33493)	
	Count	Percent	Count	Percent	Count	Percent	Count	Percent	Count	Percent
Civilian employed population 16 years and over	684,112	--	7,945	--	163	--	2,728	--	670	--
Agriculture, forestry, fishing and hunting, and mining	6,865	1.0%	1,449	18.2%	9	5.5%	314	11.5%	80	11.9%
Construction	53,723	7.9%	341	4.3%	0	0.0%	248	9.1%	33	4.9%
Manufacturing	28,962	4.2%	568	7.1%	8	4.9%	165	6.0%	68	10.1%
Wholesale trade	17,423	2.5%	283	3.6%	0	0.0%	14	0.5%	9	1.3%
Retail trade	86,793	12.7%	960	12.1%	14	8.6%	395	14.5%	93	13.9%
Transportation and warehousing, and utilities	31,147	4.6%	385	4.8%	0	0.0%	86	3.2%	28	4.2%
Information	13,130	1.9%	56	0.7%	0	0.0%	42	1.5%	0	0.0%
Finance and insurance, and real estate and rental and leasing	54,331	7.9%	325	4.1%	0	0.0%	71	2.6%	0	0.0%
Professional, scientific, and management, and administrative and waste management services	105,813	15.5%	552	6.9%	65	39.9%	251	9.2%	44	6.6%
Educational services, and health care and social assistance	143,260	20.9%	1,578	19.9%	20	12.3%	479	17.6%	188	28.1%
Arts, entertainment, and recreation, and accommodation and food services	80,117	11.7%	765	9.6%	38	23.3%	364	13.3%	17	2.5%
Other services, except public administration	40,546	5.9%	242	3.0%	9	5.5%	145	5.3%	33	4.9%
Public administration	22,002	3.2%	441	5.6%	0	0.0%	154	5.6%	77	11.5%

Source: U.S Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 2019
Compiled by: Health Council of Southeast Florida, 2021

Employment by Occupation

Similar to employment by industry, employment by occupation is an important factor to consider to understand the potential needs of a community. Studies show that workers with lower educational and occupational status are more likely to report poor self-rated health, limited physical functioning, and absences due to sickness.[26]

The table below shows the employment by occupation in the Glades Region and Palm Beach County in 2019. In Belle Glade (24.6%), Pahokee (30.4%), and South Bay (26.4%), service occupations made up the largest percentage of occupations for employed residents over age 16. In Canal Point, over half (59.5%) of employed residents over age 16 worked in management, business, science, or arts occupations. Importantly, the patterns in employment seen below are likely to have changed as a result of the pandemic.

Table 23: Employment by Occupation, Glades Region and Palm Beach County, 5-Year Estimate, 2019

	Palm Beach County		Belle Glade (33430)		Canal Point (33438)		Pahokee (33476)		South Bay (33493)	
	Count	Percent	Count	Percent	Count	Percent	Count	Percent	Count	Percent
Civilian employed population 16 years and over	684,112	100%	7,945	100%	163	100%	2,728	100%	670	100%
Management, business, science, and arts occupations	255,373	37.3%	1,508	19.0%	97	59.5%	426	15.6%	141	21.0%
Service occupations	149,365	21.8%	1,955	24.6%	39	23.9%	830	30.4%	177	26.4%
Sales and office occupations	160,832	23.5%	1,468	18.5%	18	11.0%	420	15.4%	118	17.6%
Natural resources, construction, and maintenance occupations	60,634	8.9%	1,599	20.1%	9	5.5%	559	20.5%	137	20.4%
Production, transportation, and material moving occupations	57,908	8.5%	1,415	17.8%	0	0%	493	18.1%	97	14.5%

Source: U.S Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 2019
Compiled by: Health Council of Southeast Florida, 2021

[26] Hämmig, O., Bauer, G.F. (2013). The social gradient in work and health: a cross-sectional study exploring the relationship between working conditions and health inequalities. *BMC Public Health (13)*,1170. https://doi.org/10.1186/1471-2458-13-1170

Class of Worker

Worker class can be an indicator of health insurance availability through the workplace and can give providers and health organizations insight on the potential needs of residents.

The table below depicts the class of worker for all residents employed over the age of 16 in the Glades Region and Palm Beach County in 2019. Across all areas, a majority of employed residents are private wage and salary workers, with 80.0% in Belle Glade, 81.6% in Canal Point, 77.4% in Pahokee, and 78.5% in South Bay. Importantly, the patterns in class of worker seen below are likely to have changed as a result of the pandemic.

Table 24: Class of Worker, Glades Region and Palm Beach County, 5-Year Estimate, 2019

	Palm Beach County		Belle Glade (33430)		Canal Point (33438)		Pahokee (33476)		South Bay (33493)	
	Count	Percent	Count	Percent	Count	Percent	Count	Percent	Count	Percent
Civilian employed population 16+ years	684,112	100%	7,945	100%	163	100%	2,728	100%	670	100%
Private wage and salary workers	568,541	83.1%	6,357	80.0%	133	81.6%	2,112	77.4%	526	78.5%
Government workers	69,050	10.1%	1,329	16.7%	0	0.0%	519	19.0%	123	18.4%
Self-employed in own not incorporated business workers	45,155	6.6%	242	3.0%	30	18.4%	97	3.6%	21	3.1%
Unpaid family workers	1,366	0.2%	17	0.2%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%

Source: U.S Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 2019
Compiled by: Health Council of Southeast Florida, 2021

Education

Public School Enrollment

Education and health have an established, positive association.[27] Educational programs and early learning programs are critical to childhood social and emotional development, and these experiences serve as a catalyst for children to develop skills, relationships, and interests that shape their future. Research shows that early learning educational programs lead to enhanced literacy, language, math, and self-regulation skills. For children who are dual language learners or from lower income households, these positive results were greater when early learning programs were attended.[28] School enrollment is also an indication of population growth and can inform service delivery planning and implementation.

The following table depicts public school enrollment in the Glades Region and Palm Beach County in 2019. It is important to mention that the data below include pre-pandemic figures and it is known that COVID-19 has impacted education for students of all ages.[29] As such, it is possible that public school enrollment across all educational levels has declined as a result.

Table 25: Public School Enrollment, Glades Region and Palm Beach County, 5-Year Estimate, 2019

	Palm Beach County		Belle Glade (33430)		Canal Point (33438)		Pahokee (33476)		South Bay (33493)	
	Count	Percent	Count	Percent	Count	Percent	Count	Percent	Count	Percent
Population 3+ years enrolled in school	324,367	100%	6,311	100%	64	100%	2,308	100%	1,430	100%
Nursery school, preschool	23,287	7.2%	737	11.7%	0	0.0%	261	11.3%	55	3.8%
Kindergarten	14,981	4.6%	548	8.7%	0	0.0%	50	2.2%	48	3.4%
Elementary school (grades 1-8)	125,619	38.7%	2,714	43.0%	20	31.3%	929	40.3%	239	16.7%
High school (grades 9-12)	70,472	21.7%	1,329	21.1%	9	14.1%	588	25.5%	810	56.6%
College or graduate school	90,008	27.7%	983	15.6%	35	54.7%	480	20.8%	278	19.4%

Source: U.S Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 2019; Compiled by: Health Council of Southeast Florida, 2021

[27] Ross, C. E., Mirowsky, J. (2011). The interaction of personal and parental education on health. Social science and medicine. (72)4. 591-599. https://doi.org/10.1016/j.socscimed.2010.11.028.
[28] Ansari, A., Pianta, R. C., Whittaker, J. E., Vitiello, V., & Ruzek, E. (2021). Enrollment in public-prekindergarten and school readiness skills at kindergarten entry: Differential associations by home language, income, and program characteristics. Early Childhood Research Quarterly, 54, 60–71. https://doi.org/10.1016/j.ecresq.2020.07.011
[29] Hoofman, J. & Secord, E. (2021). The effect of COVID-19 on education. *Pediatr Clin North Am*. 68(5): 1071-1079. doi: 10.1016/j.pcl.2021.05.009

Educational Attainment

Educational attainment is positively correlated with life expectancy. Research shows that increased education can lead to more stable jobs, increased pay and benefits, and the provision of health insurance provided by an employer. These elements can increase an individual's access to care, leading to positive health outcomes.[30]

The table below depicts educational attainment in the Glades Region and Palm Beach County in 2019. The percentage of residents aged 25 years and over who reported obtaining less than a ninth-grade education was 21.5% in Belle Glade, 7.1% in Canal Point, 17.4% in Pahokee, and 10.6% in South Bay. However, a higher proportion of Glades Region residents have received a high school diploma or the equivalent compared to Palm Beach County residents overall (24%), with 32% in Belle Glade, 43% in Canal Point, 32% in Pahokee, and 36% in South Bay. It is important to mention that the data below include pre-pandemic figures and, as previously mentioned, COVID-19 has impacted education for students of all ages.[31] As such, it is possible that educational has declined in more recent years.

Table 26: Educational Attainment, Glades Region and Palm Beach County, 5-Year Estimate, 2019

	Palm Beach County		Belle Glade (33430)		Canal Point (33438)		Pahokee (33476)		South Bay (33493)	
	Count	Percent	Count	Percent	Count	Percent	Count	Percent	Count	Percent
Population 25 years & over	1,071,994	100%	14,332	100%	282	100%	5,243	100%	4,701	100%
Less than 9th grade	61,660	5.8%	3,086	21.5%	20	7.1%	914	17.4%	500	10.6%
9th to 12th grade, no diploma	61,734	5.8%	2,584	18.0%	9	3.2%	994	19.0%	1,630	34.7%
High school graduate (includes equivalency)	257,316	24.0%	4,528	31.6%	121	42.9%	1,656	31.6%	1,675	35.6%
Some college, no degree	201,641	18.8%	2,089	14.6%	47	16.7%	998	19.0%	494	10.5%
Associate's degree	96,303	9.0%	967	6.7%	26	9.2%	198	3.8%	164	3.5%
Bachelor's degree	242,569	22.6%	889	6.2%	38	13.5%	357	6.8%	175	3.7%
Graduate or professional degree	150,771	14.1%	189	1.3%	21	7.4%	126	2.4%	63	1.3%
High school graduate or higher	948,600	88.5%	8,662	60.4%	253	89.7%	3,335	63.6%	2,571	54.7%
Bachelor's degree or higher	393,340	36.7%	1,078	7.5%	59	20.9%	483	9.2%	238	5.1%

Source: U.S Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 2019; Compiled by: Health Council of Southeast Florida, 2021

[30] American Academy of Family Physicians. (2015). Learning matters: how education affects health. Retrieved from https://www.aafp.org/news/blogs/leadervoices/entry/learning_matters_how_education_affects.html
[31] Hoofman, J. & Secord, E. (2021). The effect of COVID-19 on education. *Pediatr Clin North Am*. 68(5): 1071-1079. doi: 10.1016/j.pcl.2021.05.009

Graduation Rates

Research has shown that the linkage of educational attainment to health inequalities begins during young adulthood.[32]

The table and graph below show graduation rates in the Glades Region and Palm Beach County from the 2016 – 2017 school year through the 2019 – 2020 school year. Glades Region graduation rates increased from 58.9% in the 2017 – 2018 school year to 80.5% in the 2019 – 2020 school year.

The Healthy People 2030 national target is to increase the proportion of high school students who graduate in four years after starting ninth-grade to 90.7%. The most recent national data shows that 85.8% of students graduated with a regular diploma in the 2018 – 2019 school year four years after starting ninth-grade. While the Glades Region has not yet met this target, there has been a significant and consistent upward trend in recent years.

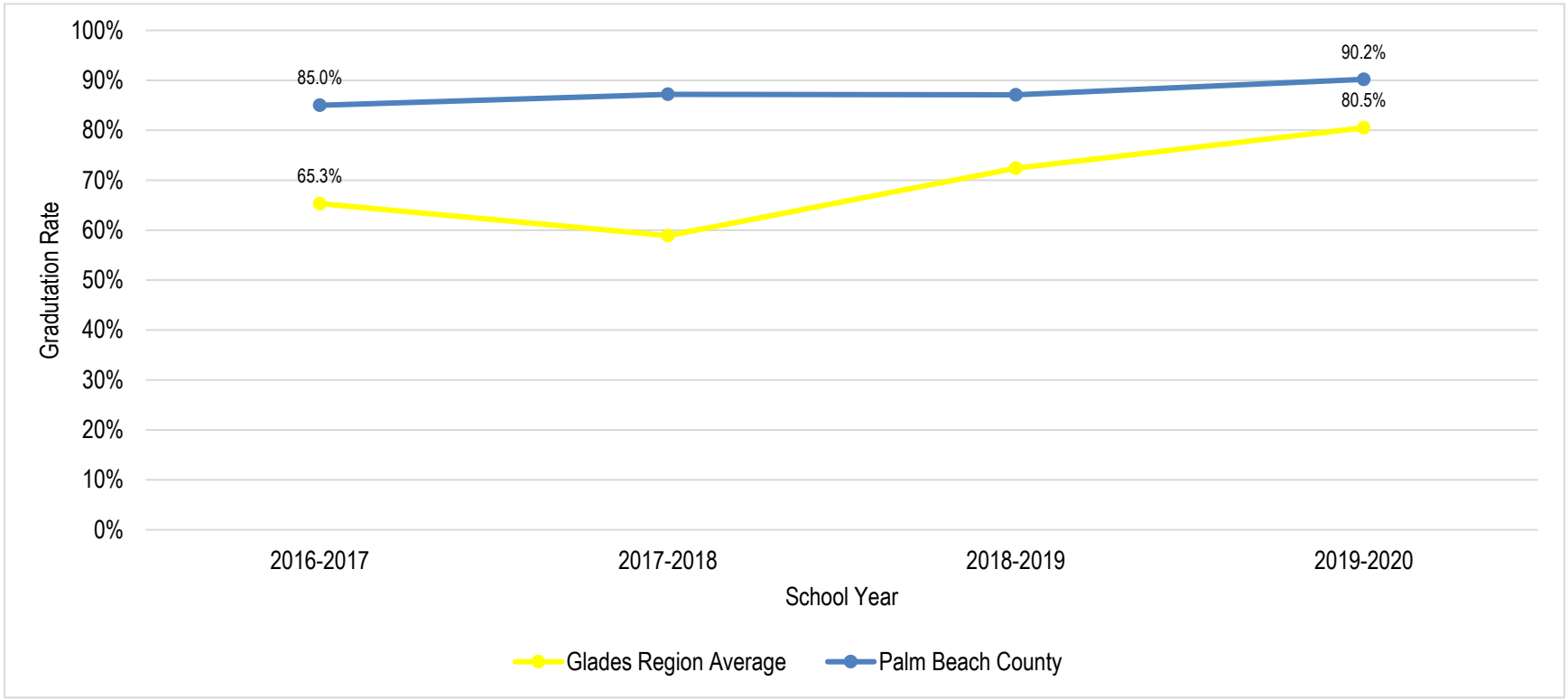
Figure 8: Graduation Rates, Glades Region and Palm Beach County, School Year 2016 – 2017 through 2019 – 2020

	2016-2017	2017-2018	2018-2019	2019-2020
Palm Beach County	85.0%	87.2%	87.1%	90.2%
Glades Region Average	65.3%	58.9%	72.4%	80.5%

Source: Florida Department of Education, 2021
Compiled by: Health Council of Southeast Florida, 2021

[32] J.O. Lee, R. Kosterman, T.M. Jones, T.I. Herrenkohl, I.C. Rhew, R.F. Catalano, J.D. Hawkins, (2016). Mechanisms linking high school graduation to health disparities in young adulthood: a longitudinal analysis of the role of health behaviours, psychosocial stressors, and health insurance. *Science Direct. (139).* 61-69. https://doi.org/10.1016/j.puhe.2016.06.010

Figure 9: Graduation Rates, Glades Region and Palm Beach County, School Year 2016 – 2017 through 2019 – 2020



Source: Florida Department of Education, 2021

School Grades by Year

School grades, assigned by the Florida Department of Education, are an indicator of individual school performance throughout the county and serve as a way for the Department to communicate how well each school is serving its students. It is important to note that on March 23, 2020 the Florida Department of Education Emergency Order No. 2020-EO-1 was issued and subsequently cancelled all spring K-12 statewide assessment tests. As such, accountability measures for the 2019 – 2020 school year that used statewide assessment data were not fully calculated. Additionally, on April 9, 2021, Florida Department of Education Emergency Order No. 2021-EO-02 made 2020 – 2021 school grades optional and gave schools the ability to choose to opt-in to this measure.[33]

This table shows the school grades by year in the Glades Region from 2015 to 2019. The schools included in the data were: Belle Glade Elementary School, Belvedere Elementary School, Glade View Elementary School, Glades Academy, Inc., Glades Central High School, Gove Elementary School, K. E. Cunningham/Canal Point Elementary, Lake Shore Middle School, Pahokee Elementary School, Pahokee Middle-Senior High, Pioneer Park Elementary School, and Rosenwald Elementary School. While none of the schools in the Glades Region attained an A rating during this timeframe, there have been strides and improvements throughout the years. For instance, there has been a decrease in the number of D and F rated schools and an increase in the number of B rated schools from 2015 to 2019.

Table 27: School Grades by Year, Glades Region, 2015-2019

School Grade	2015		2016		2017		2018		2019	
	Count	Percent	Count	Percent	Count	Percent	Count	Percent	Count	Percent
A	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%
B	0	0%	1	8.3%	0	0%	1	8.3%	2	16.7%
C	3	27.3%	9	75.0%	10	83.3%	8	66.7%	9	75.0%
D	5	45.5%	1	8.3%	2	16.7%	2	16.7%	1	8.3%
F	3	27.3%	1	8.3%	0	0%	1	8.3%	0	0%
Total	11*	100%	12	100%	12	100%	12	100%	12	100%

Note: *In 2015, only 11 out of the 12 reporting Glades Region schools received a letter grade. Glades Academy, Inc. did not receive a letter grade in 2015.
Note: Pursuant to FDOE Emergency Order No. 2021-EO-02, only schools for which an opt in request was submitted by the school district superintendent or charter school governing board have a letter grade assigned for the 2020-21 school year. More information can be found at https://www.fldoe.org/core/fileparse.php/19861/urlt/2021-EO-02.pdf.
Source: Florida Department of Education, 2021
Compiled by: Health Council of Southeast Florida, 2021

[33] Florida Department of Education. (2021). 2020-21 guide to calculating school grades and district grades. Retrieved from https://www.fldoe.org/core/fileparse.php/18534/urlt/SchoolGradesCalcGuide21.pdf

Public Assistance Benefits

Public assistance benefits serve as a valuable resource for community members in need. This section explores Free and Reduced Lunch at schools and SNAP participation in the Glades Region and Palm Beach County.

Students Qualifying for Free and Reduced Lunch

Free and reduced-price lunches are proven to reduce food insecurity, obesity rates, and poor health among students. School lunches offer an opportunity for children to have a nutritious meal at school that follows the standards of the National School Lunch program.[34] In the Glades Region, an average of 97.1% of students were eligible for the school lunch program in the 2020 – 2021 school year. It is important to note that no students were directly certified through the Community Eligibility Provision (CEP). CEP enables schools and districts in high poverty areas to provide food to students without collecting individual household applications but, instead, basing the adoption of CEP on the student's participation in other programs based on need, such as the Supplemental Nutrition Program (SNAP) and Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF).[35]

Table 28: Students Qualifying for Free and Reduced Lunch, Glades Region and Palm Beach County, School Year 2020 – 2021

	Total Students	Percent Eligible	# of Free Lunch Students	# of Reduced-Price Lunch Students	# of Provision 2 Students	# of Direct Certification CEP Students
Palm Beach County	187,340	65.1%	110,871	10,793	350	0
Glades Region	6,457	97.1%	6,084	183	0	0

Note: *To provide meaningful results and to protect the privacy of individual students, data are displayed only when the total number of students in a group is at least 10 and when the performance of individuals would not be disclosed. Data for groups less than 10 are displayed with an asterisk (*).
Source: Florida Department of Education, 2021
Compiled by: Health Council of Southeast Florida, 2021

[34] Food Research & Action Center. (2021). Benefits of school lunch. Retrieved from: https://frac.org/programs/national-school-lunch-program/benefits-school-lunch#:~:text=Research%20shows%20that%20receiving%20free,especially%20for%20fruits%20and%20vegetables.
[35] USDA Food and Nutrition Service. (2019). Community Eligibility Provision. Retrieved from https://www.fns.usda.gov/cn/community-eligibility-provision

Table 29: Students Qualifying for Free and Reduced Lunch, By School, Glades Region and Palm Beach County, School Year 2020 – 2021

School Name	Total # of Students	Percent Eligible	# of Free Lunch Students	# of Reduced-Price Lunch Students	# of Provision 2 Students	# of Direct Certification CEP Students
All Palm Beach County Schools	187,340	65.1%	110,871	10,793	350	0
Belle Glade Elementary School	701	97.7%	15	15	0	0
Crossroads Academy	141	98.6%	3	3	0	0
Everglades Preparatory Academy	123	97.6%	2	2	0	0
Glade View Elementary School	300	99.3%	5	5	0	0
Glades Academy, Inc	242	98.3%	11	11	0	0
Glades Central High School	930	95.7%	31	31	0	0
Gove Elementary School	673	95.4%	25	25	0	0
K. E. Cunningham/Canal Point Elementary	276	99.6%	6	6	0	0
Lake Shore Middle School	723	97.8%	11	11	0	0
Pahokee Elementary School	380	96.6%	18	18	0	0
Pahokee Middle-Senior High	796	97.5%	28	28	0	0
Pioneer Park Elementary School	355	98.0%	2	2	0	0
Rosenwald Elementary School	322	95.3%	5	5	0	0

Note: *To provide meaningful results and to protect the privacy of individual students, data are displayed only when the total number of students in a group is at least 10 and when the performance of individuals would not be disclosed. Data for groups less than 10 are displayed with an asterisk (*).
Source: Florida Department of Education, 2021
Compiled by: Health Council of Southeast Florida, 2021

SNAP Participation

The United States' anti-hunger program, The Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), serves as an indication of need in an area. Overall, food insecurity is shown to increase the risk of adverse health outcomes and is linked with higher health care costs. Food insecurity can also complicate an individual's ability to manage illness, further complicating health issues. Research has shown that food insecurity is strongly correlated with chronic health conditions among children, working-age adults, and seniors. SNAP works to increase food security and offers benefits that enable families to purchase healthier foods while saving money that can be used towards other health-promoting activities and medical care. Studies show that SNAP participants are more likely to report excellent or very good health compared to low-income non-SNAP participants.[36]

The table below depicts SNAP participation by ZIP code among age groups in the Glades Region as of September 2021. It is important to note that the US Census collects SNAP participation data by using county-level counts of participants for the month of July, thereby not accounting for individuals who may roll on and off of SNAP throughout the course of the year.[37]

There is no Healthy People 2030 national target directly related to SNAP participation.

Table 30: SNAP Participation, Glades Region, September 2021

ZIP Code	Population Estimate*	Age 17 & Under Receiving SNAP	Age 18-59 Receiving SNAP	Age 60 & Above Receiving SNAP	Total SNAP Recipients	Percentage of the Population SNAP
33430 - Belle Glade	23,172	6,696	3,396	1,362	11,454	49.4%
33438 - Canal Point	367	111	76	21	208	56.7%
33476 - Pahokee	8,513	2,758	1,441	478	4,677	54.9%
33493 - South Bay	5,532	1798	766	123	2687	48.6%

*Note: Population estimates are based on the most recent 5-year estimates available from the U.S. Census Bureau (2019).
Source: U.S Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 2019
Source: Florida Department of Children and Families, Southeast Region, Office of Economic Self-Sufficiency, 2021
Compiled by: Health Council of Southeast Florida, 2021

[36] Carlson, S. & Keith-Jennings, B. (2018). SNAP is linked with improved nutritional outcomes and lower health care costs. *Center on Budget and Policy Priorities.* Retrieved from https://championprovider.ucsf.edu/sites/champion.ucsf.edu/files/CBPP%20SNAP%20linked%20with%20nutritional%20outcomes%20and%20health%20care%20costs.pdf
[37] US Census (2021). Data Inputs: SNAP Benefits Data. Retrieved from https://www.census.gov/programs-surveys/sahie/technical-documentation/model-input-data/snap.html

Householder Living Alone

Social isolation can have a significant impact on health and is shown to increase an individual's risk of premature death from all causes. Social isolation is also associated with a 50% increase in the risk of dementia. Loneliness, a common factor related to social isolation, is associated with higher rates of depression, anxiety, and suicide. Older adults are at an increased risk for this isolation as they are more likely to live alone compared to other age groups.[38]

This table depicts householders living alone and householders ages 65 years and older living alone in the Glades Region and Palm Beach County in 2019. Belle Glade (37.7%), Pahokee (29.2%), and South Bay (24.4%) had similar proportions of householders living alone, whereas the proportion was 0% in Canal Point. Additionally, Belle Glade had the highest proportion of householders over 65 living alone (16.2%).

Table 31: Householder Living Alone, Glades Region and Palm Beach County, 5-Year Estimate, 2019

	Palm Beach County	Belle Glade (33430)	Canal Point (33438)	Pahokee (33476)	South Bay (33493)
Occupied housing units	554,095	7,498	105	2,665	483
Householder living alone	31.0%	37.7%	0%	29.2%	24.4%
Householder 65 years and over	16.8%	16.2%	0%	6.9%	9.9%

Source: U.S Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 2019
Compiled by: Health Council of Southeast Florida, 2021

[38] Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. (2021). Loneliness and social isolation linked to serious health conditions. Retrieved from https://www.cdc.gov/aging/publications/features/lonely-older-adults.html

Housing Value

As noted, housing that is stable, affordable, safe, and well-maintained is vital for community health and development.[39] Housing values can be an indicator of the cost of living and economic stability.

The table and graph below depict the distribution of housing values in Palm Beach County and the Glades Region in 2019. The median housing values in the Glades Region were: $111,500.00 in Belle Glade, $107,800.00 in Canal Point, $98,200.00 in Pahokee, and $82,200.00 in South Bay in 2019.

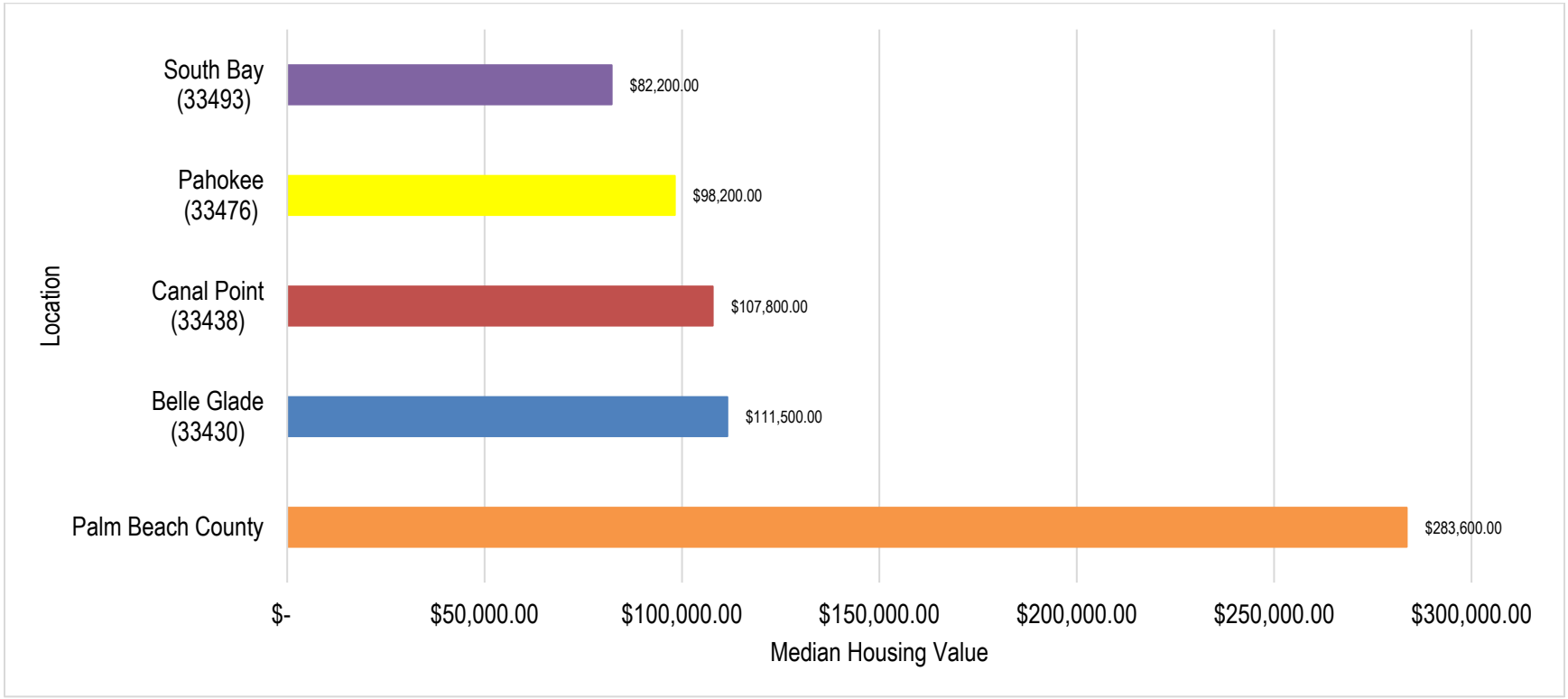
Table 32: Housing Value, Glades Region and Palm Beach County, 5-Year Estimate, 2019

	Palm Beach County		Belle Glade (33430)		Canal Point (33438)		Pahokee (33476)		South Bay (33493)	
	Count	Percent	Count	Percent	Count	Percent	Count	Percent	Count	Percent
Owner-occupied units	381,611	100%	2,259	100%	96	100%	921	100%	255	100%
Less than $50,000	17,648	4.6%	335	14.8%	0	0%	178	19.3%	51	20.0%
$50,000 to $99,999	30,212	7.9%	675	29.9%	39	40.6%	299	32.5%	120	47.1%
$100,000 to $149,999	33,880	8.9%	369	16.3%	37	38.5%	93	10.1%	51	20.0%
$150,000 to $199,999	41,062	10.8%	422	18.7%	20	20.8%	127	13.8%	12	4.7%
$200,000 to $299,999	81,401	21.3%	330	14.6%	0	0%	156	16.9%	12	4.7%
$300,000 to $499,999	106,164	27.8%	105	4.6%	0	0%	56	6.1%	0	0%
$500,000 to $999,999	51,737	13.6%	23	1.0%	0	0%	0	0%	9	3.5%
$1,000,000 or more	19,507	5.1%	0	0%	0	0%	12	1.3%	0	0%
Median Value	$283,600	--	$111,500	--	$107,800	--	$98,200	--	$82,200	--

Source: U.S Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 2019
Compiled by: Health Council of Southeast Florida, 2021

[39] Taylor, L. (2018). Housing and health: an overview of the literature. *Health Affairs*. https:// 10.1377/hpb20180313.396577

Figure 10: Housing Value, Glades Region and Palm Beach County, 2019



Source: U.S Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 2019

Gross Rent

Residents who face disproportionate rent costs compared to their income often face increased economic challenges, which can further impact the ability to access healthcare services.

This table shows the gross rent in the Glades Region and Palm Beach County in 2019. The median cost of rent was $601.00 in Belle Glade, $581.00 in Pahokee, and $803.00 in South Bay in 2019. Data for median cost of rent was unreported for Canal Point. It is important to note that the data below includes both housing units that are subsidized and/or rent-restricted and housing units without any subsidies or rent-restrictions.

Table 33: Gross Rent, Glades Region and Palm Beach County, 2019

	Palm Beach County		Belle Glade (33430)		Canal Point (33438)		Pahokee (33476)		South Bay (33493)	
	Count	Percent	Count	Percent	Count	Percent	Count	Percent	Count	Percent
Occupied units paying rent	165,753	100%	5,081	100%	9	100%	1,725	100%	223	100%
Less than $500	6,235	3.8%	1,516	29.8%	0	0%	612	35.5%	16	7.2%
$500 to $999	27,730	16.7%	2,978	58.6%	0	0%	844	48.9%	146	65.5%
$1,000 to $1,499	61,655	37.2%	538	10.6%	9	100%	237	13.7%	36	16.1%
$1,500 to $1,999	43,242	26.1%	36	0.7%	0	0%	32	1.9%	25	11.2%
$2,000 to $2,499	16,083	9.7%	13	0.3%	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%
$2,500 to $2,999	6,319	3.8%	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%
$3,000 or more	4,489	2.7%	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%
Median	$1,398.00	--	$601.00	--	--	--	$581.00	--	$803.00	--
No rent paid	6,731	--	158	--	0	--	19	--	5	--

Source: U.S Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 2019
Compiled by: Health Council of Southeast Florida, 2021

Transportation

Vehicles Available by Household

Transportation is frequently cited as a barrier to accessing healthcare services, resulting in missed appointments or delayed care by residents who do not have the ability to physically attend medical appointments or pharmacies. Residents with transportation barriers tend to miss medical care appointments, leading these residents to experience poorer health outcomes.[40] Importantly, a national study found a decrease in the use of all modes of transportation, but 35% of people using less transit increased their driving due to the ability to social distance.[41]

The following table depicts vehicles available by household, an important indicator when understanding transportation in the community, in the Glades Region and Palm Beach County in 2019. In Belle Glade (25.3%) and Pahokee (23.6%), nearly one-quarter of the residents had no vehicles available.

Table 34: Vehicles Available by Household, Glades Region and Palm Beach County, 5-Year Estimate, 2019

	Palm Beach County		Belle Glade (33430)		Canal Point (33438)		Pahokee (33476)		South Bay (33493)	
	Count	Percent	Count	Percent	Count	Percent	Count	Percent	Count	Percent
Occupied housing units	554,095	100%	7,498	100%	105	100%	2,665	100%	483	100%
No vehicles available	33,701	6.1%	1,896	25.3%	0	0.0%	630	23.6%	31	6.4%
1 vehicle available	228,678	41.3%	2,856	38.1%	31	29.5%	923	34.6%	227	47.0%
2 vehicles available	214,812	38.8%	1,858	24.8%	65	61.9%	763	28.6%	141	29.2%
3 or more vehicles available	76,904	13.9%	888	11.8%	9	8.6%	349	13.1%	84	17.4%

Source: U.S Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 2019
Compiled by: Health Council of Southeast Florida, 2021

[40] Syed, S.T., Gerber, B.S. & Sharp, L.K. (2013). Traveling Towards Disease: Transportation Barriers to Health Care Access. *J Community Health.* 38, 976–993. https://doi.org/10.1007/s10900-013-9681-1
[41] Circella, G. & Dominguez-Faus, R. (2020). Impacts of COVID-19 pandemic on transportation use: Updated from UC Davis Behavioral Study. Retrieved from https://its.ucdavis.edu/blog-post/impacts-of-the-covid-19-pandemic-on-transportation-use-updates-from-uc-davis-behavioral-study/

Health Status Profile

The monitoring of health indicators provides researchers, policymakers, organizations, and the general public information on the health and well-being of regions and communities, and provides an overview of trends over time in health outcomes or behaviors that directly inform public policy, public health efforts, and planning for health services.[42] Collecting and analyzing health indicators provides ample opportunities to make connections between the social determinants of health and their consequences on human health. The collection and monitoring of health indicators also provide a context to compare regions and communities with regards to health outcomes, and to determine whether national or local benchmarks are met in those regions for specific health indicators.

This section explores trends in several health indicators, including indicators for maternal health, behavioral health, morbidity, and mortality. The benefits of early and adequate prenatal care, breastfeeding, immunizations, and healthy birth weight are varied and well-reported, and are thus tracked in this report for the Glades Region.[43] It is also crucial to track mental and behavioral health, given that mental health disorders are associated with reductions in life expectancy, quality of life, and financial stability.[44][45] Common morbidities such as asthma and hypertension are also included in this report given that these morbidities also comprise or contribute to the leading causes of mortality in the Glades Region. Notably, heart disease and cancer are the leading causes of death in Glades ZIP codes.

The impact of COVID-19 is also analyzed in this section at the county level, as ZIP code level COVID-19 is not readily available. The economic, psychological, sociological and health impacts of COVID-19 have been well-studied and reported.[46][47][48][49] Importantly, Black and Hispanic populations in particular have reported disproportionate rates of COVID-19 related hospitalization and death as compared to their White counterparts.[50] Multiple social determinants of health, including but not limited to socioeconomic status, access to healthcare, environmental pollution, social support networks, education, and chronic stress are implicated in these disparities.[51]

[42] World Health Organization. (n.d.). Assessment of essential public health functions. Surveillance and monitoring of health-related indicators. Retrieved from http://www.emro.who.int/about-who/public-health-functions/surveillance-and-monitoring-of-health-related-indicators.html

[43] U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. (2017). What is prenatal care and why is it important? Retrieved from https://www.nichd.nih.gov/health/topics/pregnancy/conditioninfo/prenatal-care

[44] Walker, E. R., McGee, R. E., & Druss, B. G. (2015). Mortality in mental disorders and global disease burden implications: a systematic review and meta-analysis. *JAMA psychiatry*, *72*(4), 334-341. https://doi:10.1001/jamapsychiatry.2014.2502

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[47] Serafini, G., Parmigiani, B., Amerio, A., Aguglia, A., Sher, L., & Amore, M. (2020). The psychological impact of COVID-19 on the mental health in the general population. QJM : monthly journal of the Association of Physicians, 113(8), 531–537. Advance online publication. https://doi.org/10.1093/qjmed/hcaa201

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[49] Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. (2020). *Post-COVID-19 conditions*. Retrieved from https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/long-term-effects.html

[50] Lopez L, Hart LH, Katz MH. (2021). Racial and Ethnic Health Disparities Related to COVID-19. *JAMA.* 325(8):719–720. https://doi:10.1001/jama.2020.26443

[51] Phillips, N., Park, I. W., Robinson, J. R., & Jones, H. P. (2020). The perfect storm: COVID-19 health disparities in US Blacks. *Journal of racial and ethnic health disparities*, 1-8. https://doi.org/10.1007/s40615-020-00871-y

COVID-19 Pandemic

Coronavirus Disease 2019, known as COVID-19is a highly contagious disease is caused by the SARS-CoV-2 virus has quickly spread across the world, leading to mass lockdowns, infections, and deaths across the world. As of December 2021, there have been over 418 million reported cases of COVID-19 globally, including almost 6 million deaths.[52]

As scientists and medical professionals raced to keep up with the spreading disease, the world learned that COVID-19 most often causes respiratory symptoms similar to those of a cold, flu, or pneumonia. Some patients also experience long-term health issues after infection, known as "long COVID." At the time of publication, professionals are still learning more about the long-term effects of COVID and the health consequences of "long COVID."[53]

On December 11, 2020, the first COVID-19 vaccine was authorized under the Food and Drug Administration's emergency use order. Since then, a number of additional vaccines have been made available and authorized for use among various aged population groups. It is important to note that authorizations were sought by age groups as the research was available and vetted, meaning that not all age populations had access to vaccines, or the same vaccines, at the same time.[54]

The COVID-19 pandemic has gripped the world since its initial spread, leading to mass lockdowns, school closures, public space closures, strained economic security, and more. The impact of COVID-19 on the socioeconomic, health, and health resource indicators featured throughout this report is unprecedented, and as of report publication, these impacts are continuing to be felt by residents of the Glades Region and beyond.

The following section presents case, death, and vaccination data from March 1, 2020 through January 1, 2022 in Palm Beach County and Florida. At the time of publication, COVID-19 data was not available by ZIP code and is, therefore, being presented at the county-level in this report.

[52] World Health Organization. (2020.) *WHO Coronavirus (COVID-19) Dashboard).* Retrieved from https://covid19.who.int/
[53] Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. (2021). *Basics of COVID-19.* Retrieved from https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/your-health/about-covid-19/basics-covid-19.html
[54] U.S. Food and Drug Administration. (2020). FDA News Release: FDA Takes Key Action in Fight Against COVID-19 By Issuing Emergency Use Authorization for First COVID-19 Vaccine. Retrieved from https://www.fda.gov/news-events/press-announcements/fda-takes-key-action-fight-against-covid-19-issuing-emergency-use-authorization-first-covid-19

Cases

COVID-19 Daily New Cases per 100,000 Population

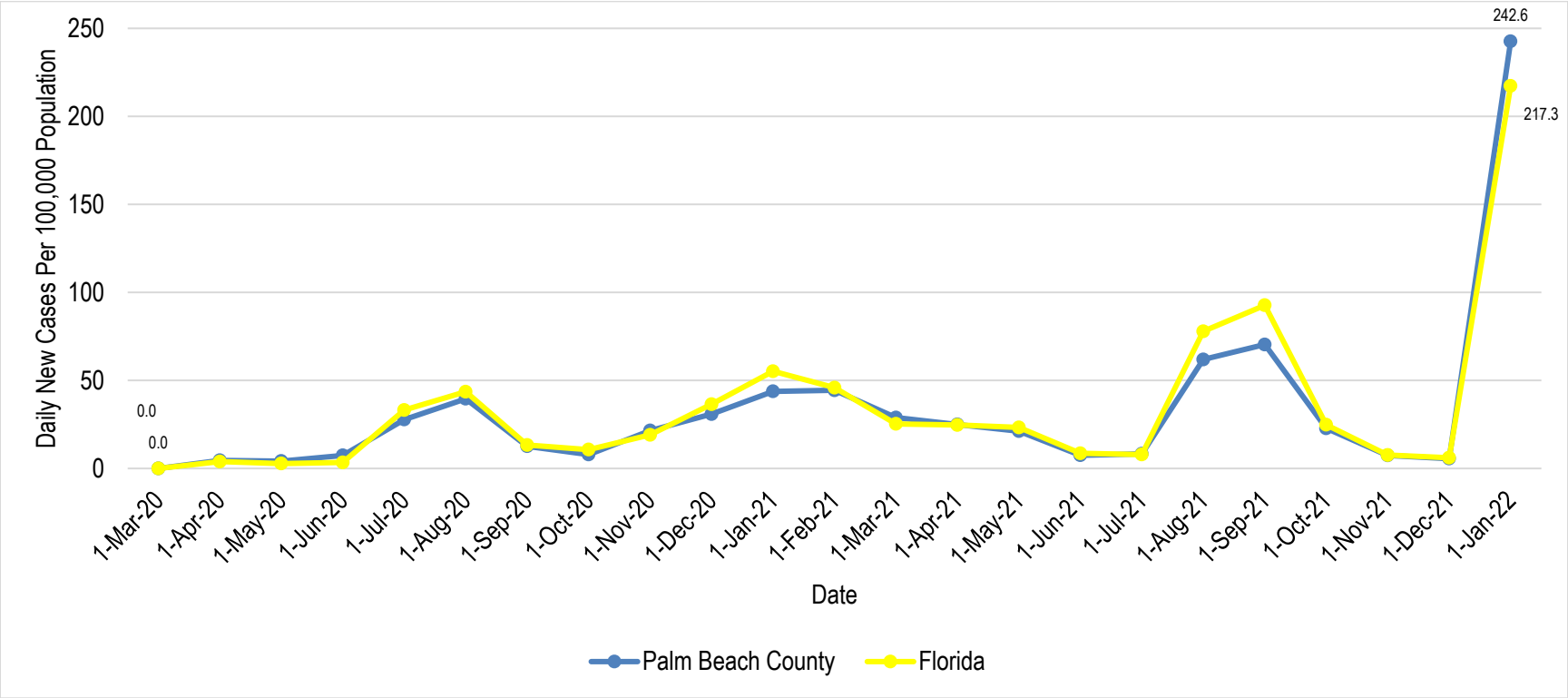
The following table and figure show the rate of daily new COVID-19 cases per 100,000 population in Palm Beach County and Florida between March 1, 2020 and January 1, 2022. At the time of publication, this data was not available by ZIP code. Both Palm Beach County and Florida followed similar trends throughout this timeframe. The rate among Palm Beach County residents peaked in August 2020, February 2021, and September 2021, followed by an exponential increase leading up to January 2022. The highest rate of new cases of COVID-19 in Palm Beach County during the reported period occurred in January 2022 (242.6 daily new cases per 100,000 population). While this data serves as an important marker for assessing the impact of the pandemic, it is important to note that due to how cases are counted, by COVID-19 tests that are reported (excluding at-home tests and the infected population who are either asymptomatic or symptomatic but forego testing), the below is likely an under-reporting of the actual total COVID-19 cases. Perhaps more appropriate indicators for assessing the impact of the pandemic, though lagging, are hospitalizations and deaths.

Table 35: COVID-19 Daily New Cases per 100,000 Population, Palm Beach County and Florida, 2020-2022

	Palm Beach County	Florida
March 1, 2020	0.0	0.0
April 1, 2020	4.6	3.9
May 1, 2020	4.2	2.8
June 1, 2020	7.4	3.4
July 1, 2020	27.8	33.2
August 1, 2020	39.6	43.6
September 1, 2020	12.6	13.3
October 1, 2020	7.9	10.7
November 1, 2020	21.5	19.1
December 1, 2020	30.9	36.5
January 1, 2021	43.8	55.2
February 1, 2021	44.4	45.9
March 1, 2021	28.9	25.3
April 1, 2021	25.0	24.7
May 1, 2021	21.2	23.3
June 1, 2021	7.5	8.6
July 1, 2021	8.3	7.9
August 1, 2021	61.9	77.9
September 1, 2021	70.4	92.7
October 1, 2021	22.8	24.8
November 1, 2021	7.4	7.6
December 1, 2021	5.6	6.1
January 1, 2022	242.6	217.3

Source: COVID Act Now, 2021
Compiled By: Health Council of Southeast Florida, 2021

Figure 11: COVID-19 Daily New Cases per 100,000 Population, Palm Beach County and Florida, 2020-2022



Source: COVID Act Now, 2021

Deaths

Age-Adjusted Deaths from COVID-19

This table and figure show the age-adjusted death rate per 100,000 population from COVID-19 in Palm Beach County and Florida in 2020. At the time of publication, this data was not available by ZIP code. In 2020, the death rate was 56.7 per 100,000 among Palm Beach County residents and 57.4 per 100,000 among Florida residents.

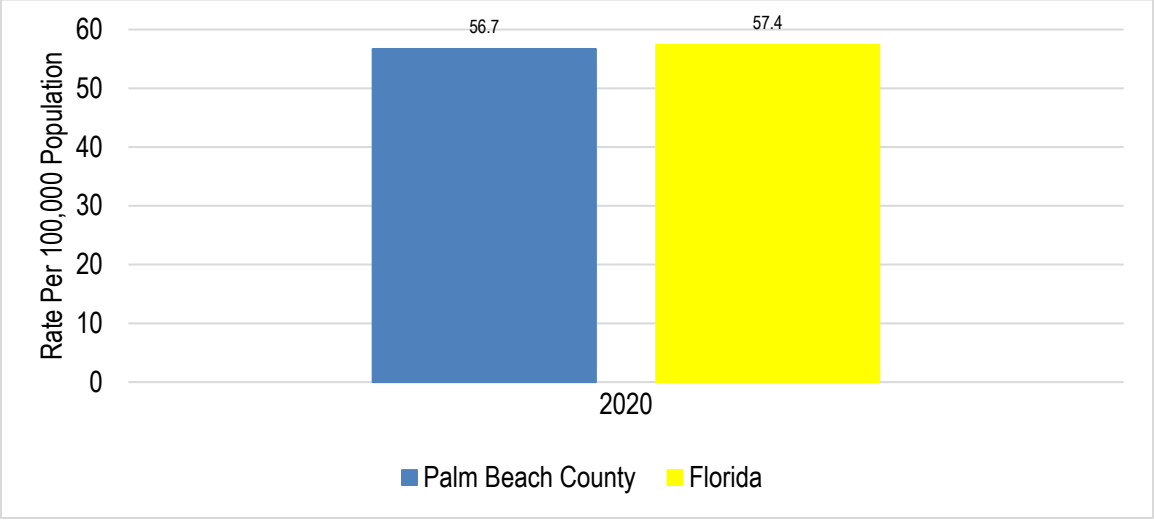
There is no Healthy People 2030 national target specific to this health indicator.

Table 36: Age-Adjusted Deaths from COVID-19, Rate Per 100,000 Population, Palm Beach County and Florida, 2020

Year	Palm Beach County		Florida	
	Count	Rate	Count	Rate
2020	1,557	56.7	19,157	57.4

Source: Florida Health CHARTS, Florida Department of Health, Bureau of Vital Statistics, 2021
Compiled by: Health Council of Southeast Florida, 2021

Figure 12: Age-Adjusted Deaths from COVID-19, Rate Per 100,000 Population, Palm Beach County and Florida, 2020



Source: Florida Health CHARTS, Florida Department of Health, Bureau of Vital Statistics, 2021

Age-Adjusted Deaths from COVID-19, By Race

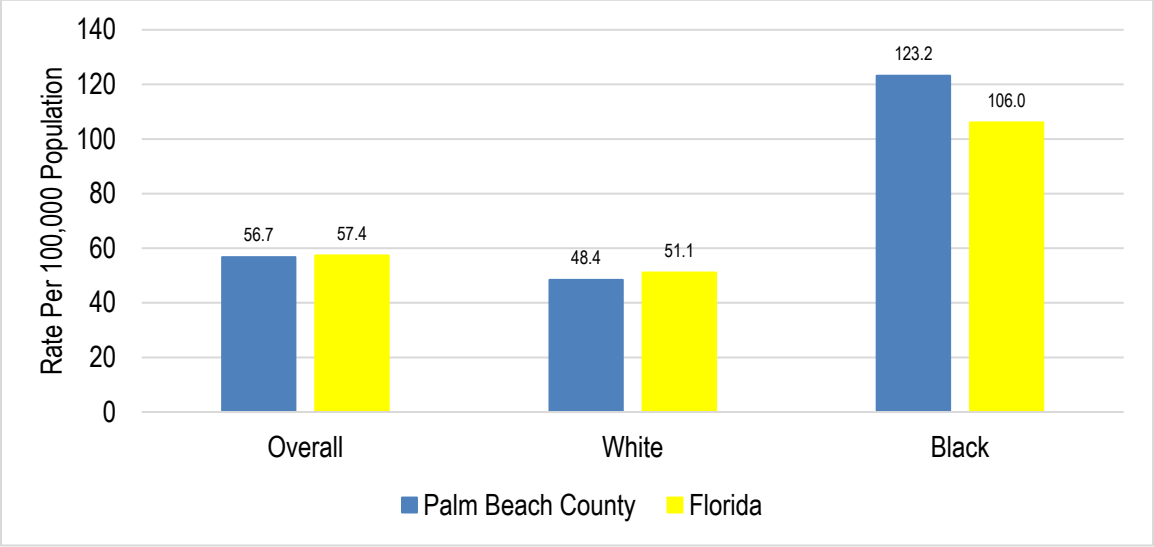
The table and figure below show the age-adjusted death rate per 100,000 population from COVID-19 in Palm Beach County and Florida in 2020 by race. At the time of publication, this data was not available by ZIP code. In Palm Beach County and Florida, the rate among Black residents was over double the rate among White residents. The rate among Black residents in Palm Beach County was 123.2 per 100,000, while the rate among White residents was 48.4 per 100,000. Additionally, the rate among Black residents in Palm Beach County (123.2 per 100,000) was higher than the rate among Black residents in Florida (106.0 per 100,000) overall.

Table 37: Age-Adjusted Deaths from COVID-19, Rate Per 100,000 Population, By Race, Palm Beach County and Florida, 2020

Year	Palm Beach County				Florida			
	White		Black		White		Black	
	Count	Rate	Count	Rate	Count	Rate	Count	Rate
2020	1,204	48.4	314	123.2	15,034	51.1	3,515	106.0

Source: Florida Health CHARTS, Florida Department of Health, Bureau of Vital Statistics, 2021
Compiled by: Health Council of Southeast Florida, 2021

Figure 13: Age-Adjusted Deaths from COVID-19, Rate Per 100,000 Population, By Race, Palm Beach County and Florida, 2020



Source: Florida Health CHARTS, Florida Department of Health, Bureau of Vital Statistics, 2021

Age-Adjusted Deaths from COVID-19, By Ethnicity

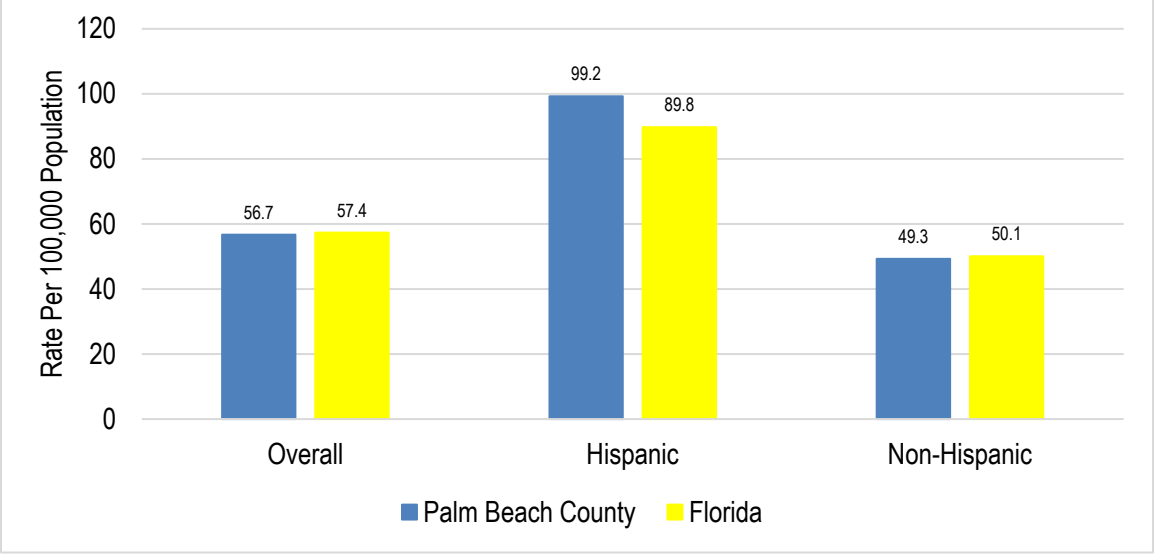
This table and figure show the age-adjusted death rate per 100,000 population from COVID-19 in Palm Beach County and Florida in 2020 by ethnicity. At the time of publication, this data was not available by ZIP code. In both Palm Beach County and Florida, the rate among Hispanic residents was much higher than the rate among non-Hispanic residents. In Palm Beach County, the rate among Hispanic residents was 99.2 per 100,000, while the rate among non-Hispanic residents was 49.3 per 100,000. Additionally, the rate among Palm Beach County Hispanic residents (99.2 per 100,000) was higher than the rate among Florida Hispanic residents (89.9 per 100,000) overall.

Table 38: Age-Adjusted Deaths From COVID-19, Rate Per 100,000 Population, By Ethnicity, Palm Beach County and Florida, 2020

Year	Palm Beach County				Florida			
	Hispanic		Non-Hispanic		Hispanic		Non-Hispanic	
	Count	Rate	Count	Rate	Count	Rate	Count	Rate
2020	310	99.2	1,245	49.3	5,212	89.8	13,831	50.1

Source: Florida Health CHARTS, Florida Department of Health, Bureau of Vital Statistics, 2021
Compiled by: Health Council of Southeast Florida, 2021

Figure 14: Age-adjusted Deaths from COVID-19, Rate Per 100,000 Population, By Ethnicity, Palm Beach County and Florida, 2020



Source: Florida Health CHARTS, Florida Department of Health, Bureau of Vital Statistics, 2021

Vaccinations

COVID-19 Vaccinations

The table and figure below show the percentage of the total population vaccinated for COVID-19 in Palm Beach County and Florida between January 1, 2021 and January 1, 2022. At the time of publication, this data was not available by ZIP code. The rate of fully vaccinated residents in Palm Beach County and Florida followed a similar trend during this timeframe, with the percentage among Palm Beach County residents slightly higher than the percentage among Florida residents overall each month reported. The percentage of residents in Palm Beach County with one dose was slightly higher than the rate among fully vaccinated residents each month during this timeframe, as well.

There is no Healthy People 2030 national target specific to this health indicator at this time, but a national target to increase the proportion of adults age 19 years or older who get recommended vaccines is currently in the developmental stage.[55]

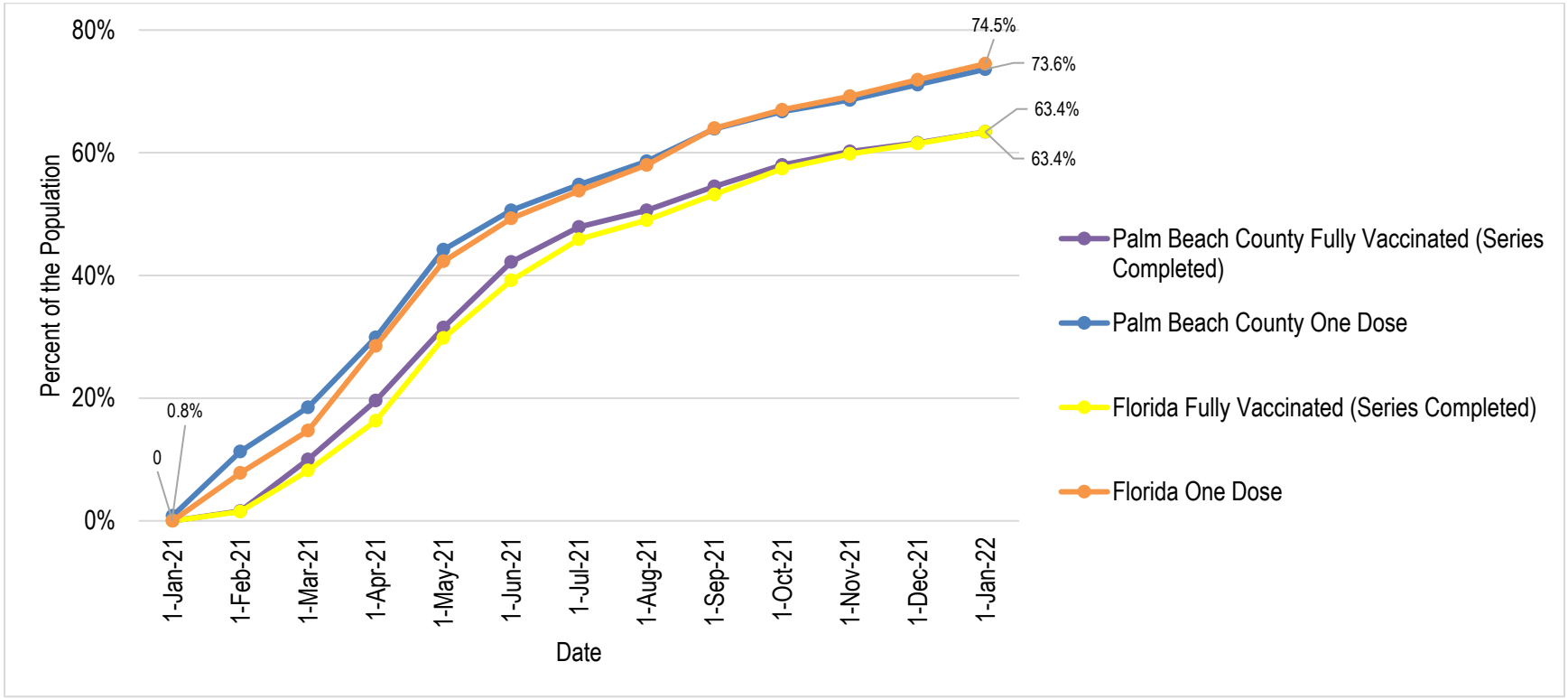
Table 39: COVID-19 Vaccinations, Percent of the Population, Palm Beach County and Florida, 2021-2022

Date	Palm Beach County		Florida	
	Fully Vaccinated (Initial Series Completed)	One Dose	Fully Vaccinated (Initial Series Completed)	One Dose
January 1, 2021	-	0.8%	-	-
February 1, 2021	1.6%	11.3%	1.5%	7.8%
March 1, 2021	10.0%	18.5%	8.2%	14.7%
April 1, 2021	19.6%	29.9%	16.3%	28.5%
May 1, 2021	31.5%	44.2%	29.8%	42.3%
June 1, 2021	42.2%	50.6%	39.2%	49.3%
July 1, 2021	47.9%	54.8%	45.9%	53.8%
August 1, 2021	50.6%	58.6%	49.0%	58.0%
September 1, 2021	54.5%	63.9%	53.2%	64.0%
October 1, 2021	58.0%	66.7%	57.4%	67.0%
November 1, 2021	60.2%	68.6%	59.8%	69.2%
December 1, 2021	61.6%	71.1%	61.5%	71.9%
January 1, 2022	63.4%	73.6%	63.4%	74.5%

Source: COVID Act Now, 2021 and Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, 2021
Compiled By: Health Council of Southeast Florida, 2021

[55] US Department of Health and Human Services. Healthy People 2030. Increase the proportion of adults who get recommended vaccines – IID-D03. https://health.gov/healthypeople/objectives-and-data/browse-objectives/vaccination/increase-proportion-adults-age-19-years-or-older-who-get-recommended-vaccines-iid-d03

Figure 15: COVID-19 Vaccinations, Palm Beach County and Florida, 2021-2022



Source: COVID Act Now, 2021 and Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, 2021

Maternal and Child Health

Prenatal Care

Births to Mothers with 1st Trimester Prenatal Care

Early prenatal care provides benefits to both mothers and their babies.[56] Receiving care during the first trimester, defined as the first 12 weeks of pregnancy, is especially crucial.[57] Receiving early medical attention can ensure that any medical conditions or potential complications are detected and addressed before they arise or worsen.[58] In rural areas, women face particular barriers to receiving prenatal care, including hospital closures, shortages of obstetricians and gynecologists, and lengthy distances to maternal health providers.[59]

The following table shows the total number of births to mothers who received first trimester prenatal care in the Glades Region from 2016 to 2020. The number of births to mothers with first trimester prenatal care in Belle Glade decreased from 2016 (168) to 2017 (153), and then increased in 2019 (191) and decreased again in 2020 (188). In Pahokee, the number of births remained fairly stable from 2016 (65) to 2018 (64), then notably increased from 64 births in 2018 to 73 births in 2019 and decreased to 67 in 2020. In South Bay, the number of births remained steady from 2016 (26) to 2019 (24), and increased in 2020 (37). Additionally, the number of births in Canal Point increased from 3 in 2016 to 5 in 2020.

The Healthy People 2030 national target is to increase the proportion of women who receive early and adequate prenatal care to 80.5%.[60] The data below shows that the Glades Region is not yet meeting this target; however, there has been an increase over time in the proportion of births to women who receive prenatal care during the first trimester, with 62% in 2020.

[56] Florida Department of Health. (2022). *Births to Mothers With 1st Trimester Prenatal Care.* Retrieved from https://www.flhealthcharts.com/ChartsReports/rdPage.aspx?rdReport=Birth.DataViewer&cid=16
[57] U.S. Department of Health & Human Services Office On Women's Health. (2019). *States of Pregnancy.* Retrieved from https://www.womenshealth.gov/pregnancy/youre-pregnant-now-what/stages-pregnancy
[58] U.S. Department of Health & Human Services National Institutes of Health. (2017). *What is Prenatal Care and Why Is It Important?* Retrieved from https://www.nichd.nih.gov/health/topics/pregnancy/conditioninfo/prenatal-care
[59] Center for Medicare and Medicaid Services. (n.d.). *Improving Access to Maternal Health Care in Rural Communities Issue Brief.* Retrieved from https://www.cms.gov/About-CMS/Agency-Information/OMH/equity-initiatives/rural-health/09032019-Maternal-Health-Care-in-Rural-Communities.pdf
[60] U.S. Department of Health and Human Service. Healthy People 2030. Increase the proportion of pregnant women who receive early and adequate prenatal care — MICH-08 https://health.gov/healthypeople/objectives-and-data/browse-objectives/pregnancy-and-childbirth/increase-proportion-pregnant-women-who-receive-early-and-adequate-prenatal-care-mich-08

Table 40: Births to Mothers with 1st Trimester Prenatal Care, Glades Region ZIP Codes, 2016-2020

Year	Glades Region ZIP Codes				
	Belle Glade (33430)	Canal Point (33438)	Pahokee (33476)	South Bay (33493)	Total Births with 1st Trimester Care/Total Births (%)
2016	168	3	65	26	262/492 (53.3%)
2017	153	7	63	24	247/511 (48.3%)
2018	178	3	64	24	269/530 (50.8%)
2019	191	2	73	24	290/501 (57.9%)
2020	188	5	67	37	297/480 (61.9%)

Source: Florida Health CHARTS, Florida Department of Health, Bureau of Vital Statistics, 2020
Compiled by: Health Council of Southeast Florida, 2021

Births to Mothers with 3rd Trimester Prenatal Care

The third trimester of pregnancy begins during the 28th week of gestation and ends with delivery.[61] The risks of receiving late or no prenatal care are significant. Babies born to mothers who receive no prenatal care are three times more likely to have a low birth weight and five times more likely to die as compared to those born to mothers who do receive prenatal care.[62] Under 50% of all rural women have access to perinatal services within a 30-minute drive of their home, and over 10% of rural mothers are forced to drive at least 100 miles for such services.[63]

The table below shows the births to mothers with third trimester prenatal care in the Glades Region from 2016 to 2019. Births to mothers receiving third trimester prenatal care in Belle Glade increased between 2016 (9) to 2018 (17), then decreased slightly in 2019 (14) and 2020 (11). In Pahokee, the number of births to mothers with third trimester prenatal care was highest in 2018 (6) and lowest in 2017 and 2020 (2). South Bay reported no births to mothers with third trimester prenatal care in 2016 and 2017, and reported 3 births to mothers with third trimester prenatal care in both 2018 and 2019, and 4 births in 2020.

The Healthy People 2030 national target is to increase the proportion of women who receive early and adequate prenatal care to 80.5%.[64] The data below shows that a low proportion of births occurred to mothers who received prenatal care in their third trimester, with slight fluctuation from 2016 to 2020. However, it is important to note that, because of the relatively small numbers, any small fluctuation can result in significant percentage increases.

Table 41: Births to Mothers with 3rd Trimester Prenatal Care, Glades Region ZIP Codes, 2016-2020

Year	Glades Region ZIP Codes				
	Belle Glade (33430)	Canal Point (33438)	Pahokee (33476)	South Bay (33493)	Total Births with 3rd Trimester Care/Total Births (%)
2016	9	0	4	0	13/492 (2.6%)
2017	11	0	2	0	13/511 (2.5%)
2018	17	0	6	3	26/530 (4.9%)
2019	14	0	3	3	20/501 (3.9%)
2020	11	0	2	4	17/480 (3.5%)

Source: Florida Health CHARTS, Florida Department of Health, Bureau of Vital Statistics, 2020
Compiled by: Health Council of Southeast Florida, 2021

[61] Mayo Clinic. (2020). *Pregnancy Week by Week.* Retrieved from https://www.mayoclinic.org/healthy-lifestyle/pregnancy-week-by-week/in-depth/fetal-development/art-20045997
[62] U.S. Department of Health & Human Services Office On Women's Health. Prenatal Care. (2019). *Prenatal Care.* https://www.womenshealth.gov/a-z-topics/prenatal-care#:~:text=Babies%20of%20mothers%20who%20do,doctors%20to%20treat%20them%20early
[63] Center for Medicare and Medicaid Services. (n.d.). *Improving Access to Maternal Health Care in Rural Communities Issue Brief.* Retrieved from https://www.cms.gov/About-CMS/Agency-Information/OMH/equity-initiatives/rural-health/09032019-Maternal-Health-Care-in-Rural-Communities.pdf
[64] U.S. Department of Health and Human Service. Healthy People 2030. Increase the proportion of pregnant women who receive early and adequate prenatal care — MICH-08 https://health.gov/healthypeople/objectives-and-data/browse-objectives/pregnancy-and-childbirth/increase-proportion-pregnant-women-who-receive-early-and-adequate-prenatal-care-mich-08

Births to Mothers with No Prenatal Care

As previously mentioned, a failure to receive prenatal care is associated with a higher likelihood of negative health outcomes for both babies and their mothers, and a failure to receive prenatal care has significant consequences for rural women in particular. As recently as 2015, there were 29.4 maternal deaths per 100,000 population in the most rural areas versus 18.2 per 100,000 population in urban areas. Research suggests that difficulty accessing prenatal care in rural areas may be causing this disparity.[65]

This table shows the total number of births to mothers with no prenatal care in the Glades Region from 2016 to 2020. Births to mothers with no prenatal care decreased from 2016 to 2020 for Belle Glade. Pahokee reported its highest total number of births to mothers with no prenatal care in 2020 (7) and its lowest number in 2019 (1). Canal Point reported no births during this time frame. The total number of births to mothers with no prenatal care in South Bay was lowest in 2017 with 0 births, and highest in 2019 with 6 births.

The Healthy People 2030 national target is to increase the proportion of women who receive early and adequate prenatal care to 80.5%.[66] The data below shows that a low proportion of births occurred to mothers who received no prenatal care, with a 1.8% decrease from 2016 to 2020. However, as previously mentioned, because of the relatively small numbers, any small fluctuation can result in significant percentage increases.

Table 42: Births to Mothers with No Prenatal Care, Glades Region ZIP Codes, 2016-2020

Year	Glades Region ZIP Codes				
	Belle Glade (33430)	Canal Point (33438)	Pahokee (33476)	South Bay (33493)	Total Births with No Prenatal Care/Total Births (%)
2016	15	0	4	2	21/492 (4.3%)
2017	12	0	2	0	14/511 (2.7%)
2018	8	0	3	2	13/530 (2.5%)
2019	7	0	1	6	14/501 (2.8%)
2020	4	0	7	1	12/480 (2.5%)

Source: Florida Health CHARTS, Florida Department of Health, Bureau of Vital Statistics, 2020
Compiled by: Health Council of Southeast Florida, 2021

[65] Center for Medicare and Medicaid Services. (n.d.). *Improving Access to Maternal Health Care in Rural Communities Issue Brief.* Retrieved from https://www.cms.gov/About-CMS/Agency-Information/OMH/equity-initiatives/rural-health/09032019-Maternal-Health-Care-in-Rural-Communities.pdf

[66] U.S. Department of Health and Human Service. Healthy People 2030. Increase the proportion of pregnant women who receive early and adequate prenatal care — MICH-08 https://health.gov/healthypeople/objectives-and-data/browse-objectives/pregnancy-and-childbirth/increase-proportion-pregnant-women-who-receive-early-and-adequate-prenatal-care-mich-08

Births by Kotelchuck Prenatal Care Index by Mother's Education

The Kotelchuck Index, also referred to as the Adequacy of Prenatal Care Utilization (APNCU) Index, uses elements obtained from birth certificate data, including when prenatal care began (initiation) and the number of prenatal visits from when prenatal care began until delivery (received services). These elements are used to determine the adequacy of prenatal care received.[67] A ratio of observed to expected visits is calculated and grouped into four categories: Inadequate (received less than 50% of expected visits), Intermediate (received 50%-79% of expected visits), Adequate (received 80%-109% of expected visits), Adequate Plus (received 110% or more of expected visits).[68] The Kotelchuck Index is recommended for use among low-risk pregnancies because high-risk pregnancies tend to require many more visits than would normally be expected. Mothers in rural areas are more likely to report inadequate prenatal care.[69]

The following table shows the total number of births by the Kotelchuck Prenatal Care Index by mother's education in the Glades Region in 2020. The majority of mothers received Adequate prenatal care (n=150), followed by Adequate Plus prenatal care (n=136).

The Healthy People 2030 national target is to increase the proportion of women who receive early and adequate prenatal care to 80.5%.[70] The data below shows that, in 2020, a majority of births in the Glades Region were to mothers who received adequate or adequate plus prenatal care (59.6%).

Table 43: Births by Kotelchuck Prenatal Care Index by Mother's Education, Glades Region, 2020

Mother's Education	Inadequate Prenatal Care	Intermediate Prenatal Care	Adequate Prenatal Care	Adequate Plus Prenatal Care	Unknown
8th grade or less	5 (6.0%)	4 (9.3%)	5 (3.3%)	4 (2.9%)	2 (2.9%)
9th-12th grade, no diploma	20 (24.1%)	4 (9.3%)	26 (17.3%)	17 (12.5%)	11 (16.2%)
HS Graduate or GED	38 (45.8%)	23 (53.5%)	73 (48.7%)	69 (50.7%)	27 (39.7%)
Some college but no degree	8 (9.6%)	8 (18.6%)	24 (16.0%)	20 (14.7%)	4 (5.9%)
Associate's Degree	0 (0.0%)	1 (2.3%)	9 (6.0%)	12 (8.8%)	9 (13.2%)
Bachelor's Degree	2 (2.4%)	2 (4.7%)	10 (6.7%)	8 (5.9%)	2 (2.9%)
Master's Degree	1 (1.2%)	0 (0.0%)	0 (0.0%)	6 (4.4%)	0 (0.0%)
Doctorate Degree	0 (0.0%)	0 (0.0%)	1 (0.7%)	0 (0.0%)	0 (0.0%)
Unknown	9 (10.8%)	1 (2.3%)	2 (1.3%)	0 (0.0%)	13 (19.1%)
Total	83 (100%)	43 (100%)	150 (100%)	136 (100%)	68 (100%)

Source: Florida Health CHARTS, Florida Department of Health, Bureau of Vital Statistics, 2020; Compiled by: Health Council of Southeast Florida, 2021

[67] New Jersey State Health Assessment Data. (2020). *The Kotelchuck Index.* Retrieved from https://www-doh.state.nj.us/doh-shad/query/Kotelchuck.html
[68] Florida Department of Health. (2022). *Births with Adequate Prenatal Care (Kotelchuck Index).* Retrieved from https://www.flhealthcharts.com/ChartsReports/rdPage.aspx?rdReport=Birth.DataViewer&cid=615
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[70] U.S. Department of Health and Human Service. Healthy People 2030. Increase the proportion of pregnant women who receive early and adequate prenatal care — MICH-08 https://health.gov/healthypeople/objectives-and-data/browse-objectives/pregnancy-and-childbirth/increase-proportion-pregnant-women-who-receive-early-and-adequate-prenatal-care-mich-08

Overweight & Obesity

Births to Overweight Mothers at the Time Pregnancy Occurred

From 2016 to 2019, pre-pregnancy obesity increased among women of all ages in the United States.[71] Pre-pregnancy BMI is associated with various adverse health outcomes for mothers and newborns, including gestational diabetes, hypertension, preeclampsia, cesarean delivery, preterm delivery, large size for gestational age, and infant death.[72] Previous research suggests that rural mothers are more likely to have unhealthy pre-pregnancy body mass index (BMI) levels as compared to their urban counterparts.[73]

This table shows the total number of births to overweight mothers at the time pregnancy occurred in the Glades Region from 2016 to 2019. The total number of births increased in Belle Glade from 71 in 2016 to 77 in 2020. The number of births decreased from 35 in 2017 to 25 in 2020 in Pahokee, and decreased from 19 in 2017 to 11 in 2018 but increased again slightly to 14 in 2019 and 2020 in South Bay. The number in Canal Point fluctuated during this time period, but ultimately decreased from 3 in 2018 to 2 in 2020.

The Healthy People 2030 national target is to increase the proportion of women who had a healthy weight before pregnancy to 47.1%.[74] The data below shows that there has been a steady percentage of births to overweight mothers at the time of pregnancy, with 24.6% most recently reported in 2020.

Table 44: Births to Overweight Mothers at the Time Pregnancy Occurred, Glades Region ZIP Codes, 2016-2020

Year	Glades Region ZIP Codes				
	Belle Glade (33430)	Canal Point (33438)	Pahokee (33476)	South Bay (33493)	Total Births to Overweight Mothers/Total Births (%)
2016	71	2	29	17	119/492 (24.2%)
2017	71	1	35	19	126/511 (24.6%)
2018	81	3	29	11	124/530 (23.4%)
2019	88	1	26	14	129/501 (25.7%)
2020	77	2	25	14	118/480 (24.6%)

Source: Florida Health CHARTS, Florida Department of Health, Bureau of Vital Statistics, 2020; Compiled by: Health Council of Southeast Florida, 2021

[71] Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. (2020). *NCHS Data Brief: Increases in Prepregnancy Obesity: United States*. Retrieved from https://www.cdc.gov/nchs/data/databriefs/db392-H.pdf

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[74] U.S. Department of Health and Human Service. Healthy People 2030. Increase the proportion of women who had a healthy weight before pregnancy – MICH-13. https://health.gov/healthypeople/objectives-and-data/browse-objectives/pregnancy-and-childbirth/increase-proportion-women-who-had-healthy-weight-pregnancy-mich-13

Births to Obese Mothers at the Time Pregnancy Occurred

The table below shows the births to obese mothers at the time pregnancy occurred in the Glades Region from 2016 to 2019. In Belle Glade, the number of births to obese mothers decreased between 2016 (102) and 2017 (97), then increased from 2018 (114) to 2019 (126) and decreased in 2020 (113). In Pahokee, the lowest number of births to obese mothers was reported in 2017 (35) and the highest was reported in 2020 (60). The number of births to obese mothers in South Bay decreased from 2016 (25) to 2017 (20), and increased in 2018 (23), and remained steady in 2019 and 2020.

The Healthy People 2030 national target is to increase the proportion of women who had a healthy weight before pregnancy to 47.1%.[75] The data below shows that there has been a steady increase of births to obese mothers at the time of pregnancy, with 41.7% most recently reported in 2020.

Table 45: Births to Obese Mothers at the Time Pregnancy Occurred, Glades Region ZIP Codes, 2016-2020

Year	Glades Region ZIP Codes				
	Belle Glade (33430)	Canal Point (33438)	Pahokee (33476)	South Bay (33493)	Total
2016	102	1	41	25	169/492 (34.3%)
2017	97	3	35	20	155/511 (30.3%)
2018	114	0	58	23	195/530 (36.8%)
2019	126	2	51	23	202/501 (40.3%)
2020	113	4	60	23	200/480 (41.7%)

Source: Florida Health CHARTS, Florida Department of Health, Bureau of Vital Statistics, 2020
Compiled by: Health Council of Southeast Florida, 2021

[75] U.S. Department of Health and Human Service. Healthy People 2030. Increase the proportion of women who had a healthy weight before pregnancy – MICH-13. https://health.gov/healthypeople/objectives-and-data/browse-objectives/pregnancy-and-childbirth/increase-proportion-women-who-had-healthy-weight-pregnancy-mich-13

Births to Mothers Participating in WIC

The Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children (WIC) is a federal nutrition program that serves low-income pregnant and postpartum women, infants, and children nationwide.[76] Prenatal WIC participation by low-income women is associated with fewer premature deaths, lower incidence of very low and low birth weight, reduced infant mortality, and an increased likelihood of receiving prenatal care.[77] Despite this, WIC is particularly underutilized in rural areas.

The table below shows the total number of births to mothers participating in WIC in the Glades Region from 2016 to 2019. In Belle Glade, the number of births to mothers participating in WIC increased from 261 in 2016 to 284 in 2019. The number in Pahokee increased from 2016 (92) to 2018 (118) and decreased in 2019 (98). In South Bay, the number of births to mothers participating in WIC decreased from 2016 (46) to 2019 (34), and, in Canal Point, the number has remained fairly steady. For the Glades Region overall, the proportion of births to mothers participating in WIC has increased from 79.7% in 2015 to 87.3% in 2019.

Healthy People 2030 has not set a national target for births to mothers participating in WIC.

Table 46: Births to Mothers Participating in WIC, Glades Region ZIP Codes, 2015-2019

Year	Glades Region ZIP Codes				
	Belle Glade (33430)	Canal Point (33438)	Pahokee (33476)	South Bay (33493)	Total
2015	259	5	97	31	392/492 (79.7%)
2016	261	2	92	46	401/511 (78.5%)
2017	276	3	97	37	413/530 (77.9%)
2018	279	2	118	36	435/501 (86.8%)
2019	284	3	98	34	419/480 (87.3%)

Source: Florida Health CHARTS, Florida Department of Health, Bureau of Vital Statistics, 2021
Compiled by: Health Council of Southeast Florida, 2021

[76] Isaacs, S. E., et al. (2020). Qualitative Analysis of Maternal Barriers and Perceptions to Participation in a Federal Supplemental Nutrition Program in Rural Appalachian North Carolina. *Journal of Appalachian Health*, (2) 4, 37-52. *Project MUSE* muse.jhu.edu/article/774857.
[77] U.S. Department of Agriculture. Food and Nutrition Service. (n.d). *About WIC: How WIC Helps*. Retrieved from https://www.fns.usda.gov/wic/about-wic-how-wic-helps

Birth Rates

Total Resident Live Births

Live births rates are often used to determine sociological changes, including population changes, and to provide context to maternal health outcomes.[78] Nationally, rural areas have consistently reported higher fertility rates than non-rural areas.[79]

This table shows the total number of resident live births in the Glades Region from 2016 to 2020. In Belle Glade, the total number of resident live births increased each year between 2016 (317) and 2019 (340), but declined in 2020 (303). The number of live births in Pahokee increased from 2016 (114) to 2018 (139), followed by a sharp decline in 2019 (113) and a slight increase in 2020 (116), while the number in South Bay decreased each year between 2016 (56) and 2019 (45), and increased in 2020 (54).

Table 47: Total Resident Live Births, Glades Region ZIP Codes, 2016-2020

Year	Glades Region ZIP Codes				
	Belle Glade (33430)	Canal Point (33438)	Pahokee (33476)	South Bay (33493)	Total
2016	317	5	114	56	492
2017	330	7	123	51	511
2018	339	5	139	47	530
2019	340	3	113	45	501
2020	303	7	116	54	480

Source: Florida Health CHARTS, Florida Department of Health, Bureau of Vital Statistics, 2021
Compiled by: Health Council of Southeast Florida, 2021

[78] Columbia University Mailman School of Public Health: The Harriet and Robert Heilbrunn Department of Population and Family Health. (n.d.) *Measure of Total Population Structure and Size*. Retrieved from http://www.columbia.edu/itc/hs/pubhealth/modules/demography/populationRates.html
[79] Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. 92018). Trends in Fertility and Mother's Age at First Birth Among Rural and Metropolitan Counties: United States, 2007–2017. Retrieved from https://www.cdc.gov/nchs/products/databriefs/db323.htm

Repeat Births to Mothers Ages 15-19

Births to teenage mothers can have negative health, social, and economic impacts on mothers and their children. Teen births and repeat teen births can prevent mothers from pursuing educational and workforce opportunities, and repeat teen births are more likely to be preterm or of low birthweight than first teen births.[80] Nationally, the birth rate for females ages 15 to 19 fell 4% between 2018 and 2019.[81] Despite overall decreases in teenage pregnancy rates nationally, rural areas consistently report higher levels of teen pregnancy than other areas.[82]

The following table shows the total number of repeat births to teen mothers in the Glades Region from 2016 to 2020. Belle Glade reported the highest number of repeat births to teen mothers in 2017 (9) compared to all other years and ZIP codes. Most recently in 2020, Belle Glade reported 3 repeat births to teen mothers, and Pahokee, Canal Point and South Bay all reported no repeat births.

The Healthy People 2030 national target for pregnancies among mothers ages 15 to 19 is to reduce pregnancies in adolescents to 31.4 per 1,000 females.[83] Although the data below shows total repeat births to teen mothers, there is a recent decrease reported from six in 2019 to three in 2020.

Table 48: Repeat Births to Teen Mothers, Glades Region ZIP Codes, 2016-2020

Year	Glades Region ZIP Codes				
	Belle Glade (33430)	Canal Point (33438)	Pahokee (33476)	South Bay (33493)	Total
2016	2	0	1	0	3
2017	9	0	0	2	11
2018	2	0	2	0	4
2019	4	0	2	0	6
2020	3	0	0	0	3

Source: Florida Health CHARTS, Florida Department of Health, Bureau of Vital Statistics, 2021
Compiled by: Health Council of Southeast Florida, 2021

[80] Dee, D. L., Pazol, K., Cox, S., Smith, R. A., Bower, K., Kapaya, M., Fasula, A., Harrison, A., Kroelinger, C. D., D'Angelo, D., Harrison, L., Koumans, E. H., Mayes, N., Barfield, W. D., & Warner, L. (2017). Trends in Repeat Births and Use of Postpartum Contraception Among Teens - United States, 2004-2015. MMWR. Morbidity and mortality weekly report, 66(16), 422–426. https://doi.org/10.15585/mmwr.mm6616a3
[81] Martin, J.A., Hamilton, B.E., Osterman, M. J. K., and Driscoll, A. K. (2021). Births: Final Data for 2019. *National Vital Statistics Report. (70)*2. Retrieved from https://www.cdc.gov/nchs/data/nvsr/nvsr70/nvsr70-02-508.pdf
[82] Blackman, K. (2015). *Addressing Pregnancy Among Rural Teens.* Retrieved from https://www.ncsl.org/research/health/addressing-pregnancy-among-rural-teens.aspx
[83] U.S. Department of Health and Human Service. Healthy People 2030. Reduce pregnancies in adolscents – FP-03. https://health.gov/healthypeople/objectives-and-data/browse-objectives/family-planning/reduce-pregnancies-adolescents-fp-03

Newborn Discharges, By ZIP Code

The table below shows the total number of newborns delivered by mothers in the Glades Region in 2020. A total of 473 newborns were delivered, 308 in Belle Glade, 119 in Pahokee, 39 in South Bay, and 7 in Canal Point. The highest proportion of newborn discharges was reported in Belle Glade, followed by Pahokee, South Bay, and Canal Point, which is consistent with their total population sizes.

Table 49: Newborn Discharges, by ZIP Code, Glades Region, 2020

	2020	
	Count	Percent
33430 - Belle Glade	308	65.1%
33438 - Canal Point	7	1.5%
33476 - Pahokee	119	25.2%
33493 - South Bay	39	8.2%
Total	473	100.0%

Source: Florida Agency for Health Care Administration, 2020
Compiled by: Health Council of Southeast Florida, 2021
Data Note: ICD-10 Code Z38.00-Z38.8, and V30.0-V38.00

Birth Weight

Live Births Under 1500 Grams (Very Low Birth Weight)

About one percent of babies in the United States are born with very low birth weight.[84] Very low birth weight often coincides with premature birth and various health complications. While urban and rural areas report equal rates of low birth weights nationally, significant rural-urban disparities continue to exist within particular regions.[85]

This table shows the total number of live births under 1500 grams, or very low birth weight, in the Glades Region from 2016 to 2020. In Belle Glade, the number of live births under 1500 grams more than doubled from 2016 (4) to 2017 (9), stayed constant from 2017 (9) to 2018 (9), increased slightly in 2019 (10), and decreased in 2020 (7). Most recently in 2020, Pahokee reported 2 live births under 1500 grams, South Bay reported 0, and Canal point reported 0.

Healthy People 2030 has not set a national target for the number of live births under 1500 grams. However, very low birth weight births in the Glades Region have recently decreased from 3% in 2019 to 1.9% in 2020.

Table 50: Live Births Under 1500 Grams (Very Low Birth Weight), Glades Region ZIP Codes, 2016-2020

Year	Glades Region ZIP Codes				
	Belle Glade (33430)	Canal Point (33438)	Pahokee (33476)	South Bay (33493)	Total Births <1500 Grams/Total Births (%)
2016	4	0	4	0	8/492 (1.6%)
2017	9	0	3	3	15/511 (2.9%)
2018	9	0	2	2	13/530 (2.5%)
2019	10	0	3	2	15/501 (3.0%)
2020	7	0	2	0	9/480 (1.9%)

Source: Florida Health CHARTS, Florida Department of Health, Bureau of Vital Statistics, 2021
Compiled by: Health Council of Southeast Florida, 2021

[84] Cedars Sinai. (2022). *Very Low Birth Weight*. Retrieved from https://www.cedars-sinai.org/health-library/diseases-and-conditions---pediatrics/v/very-low-birth-weight.html
[85] Laurore, J., Baziyants, G., and Daily, S. (2020). Health Care Access for Infants and Toddlers in Rural Areas. *Child Trends*. Retrieved from https://www.childtrends.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/07/Rural-health-iniquities_ChildTrends_July2020.pdf

Live Births Under 2500 Grams (Low Birth Weight)

The World Health Organization defines low birth weight (LBW) as the birth weight less than 2500 grams regardless of gestational age.[86] Babies with a low birth weight are 20 times more likely to develop complications and die compared to babies with a normal birth weight.[87]

This table shows the total number of live births under 2500 grams, or low birth weight, in the Glades Region from 2016 to 2020. In Belle Glade, the total number of live births under 2500 grams decreased from 2016 (37) to 2018 (34), increased in 2019 (42) and decreased in 2020 (35). In Pahokee, the number of live births in this category decreased from a high of 20 in 2017 to a low of 13 in 2019, but then increased to 16 in 2020. South Bay reported 3 in 2020 (the area's lowest number of live births under 2500 grams during this time frame), preceded by a high of 12 in 2019. Canal Point reported only 1 live birth under 2500 grams during this time frame.

Healthy People 2030 has not set a national target for rates of low birth weight. However, low birth weight births in the Glades Region have recently decreased from 13.4% in 2019 to 11.5% in 2020.

Table 51: Live Births Under 2500 Grams (Low Birth Weight), Glades Region ZIP Codes, 2016-2020

Year	Glades Region ZIP Codes				
	Belle Glade (33430)	Canal Point (33438)	Pahokee (33476)	South Bay (33493)	Total Births <2500 Grams/Total Births (%)
2016	37	0	17	8	62/492 (12.6%)
2017	35	0	20	7	62/511 (12.1%)
2018	34	0	19	9	62/530 (11.7%)
2019	42	0	13	12	67/501 (13.4%)
2020	35	1	16	3	55/480 (11.5%)

Source: Florida Health CHARTS, Florida Department of Health, Bureau of Vital Statistics, 2021
Compiled by: Health Council of Southeast Florida, 2021

[86] World Health Organization. (2016). International Statistical Classification of Diseases and Related Health Problems -10 Disorders related to short gestation and low birth weight, not elsewhere classified. Retrieved from https://icd.who.int/browse10/2016/en#!/P05.9
[87] K. C. Anil, P. L. Basel, S. Singh. (2020). Low birth weight and its associated risk factors: Health facility-based case-control study. *PlOS (15)*6. https://doi.org/10.1371/journal.pone.0234907

Premature Births

Premature Births

A premature birth is a birth that takes place more than three weeks before the baby's estimated due date, or before the start of the 37th week of pregnancy.[88] Premature births are associated with numerous health problems for newborns. Nationally, the preterm birth rate was 10.1% in 2020. [89] Overall, in the United States, rural areas report slightly higher rates of preterm birth, with 10.4% of babies born preterm in rural areas and 10% in urban areas.[90] States with higher levels of premature birth are more likely to report higher levels of low birth weight, likely reflecting the association between premature birth and low birth weight.

The table below shows the total number of preterm births in the Glades Region from 2016 to 2020. The number of preterm births stayed stable for Belle Glade from 2016 (35) to 2017 (35), followed by an increase in 2018 (40) and 2019 (47), and a decrease in 2020 (33). The number of preterm births increased in Pahokee from 2016 (12) to 2018 (25), then decreased in 2019 (19) and stayed stable in 2020 (19). Preterm births in South Bay increased from 2016 (9) to 2017 (10), decreased in 2018 (7), and then remained steady in 2019 (7) and decreased slightly in 2020 (6). Canal Point reported no preterm births from 2016 to 2020.

The Healthy People 2030 national target is to reduce the proportion of preterm births to 9.4%.[91] While the Glades Region has not met this target, there has been a decrease in the proportion of preterm births from 14.6% in 2019 to 12.1% in 2020.

Table 52: Premature Births (< 37 weeks), Glades Region ZIP Codes, 2016-2020

Year	Glades Region ZIP Codes				
	Belle Glade (33430)	Canal Point (33438)	Pahokee (33476)	South Bay (33493)	Total Preterm Births/Total Births (%)
2016	35	0	12	9	56/492 (11.4%)
2017	35	0	16	10	61/511 (11.9%)
2018	40	0	25	7	72/530 (13.6%)
2019	47	0	19	7	73/501 (14.6%)
2020	33	0	19	6	58/480 (12.1%)

Source: Florida Health CHARTS, Florida Department of Health, Bureau of Vital Statistics, 2021
Compiled by: Health Council of Southeast Florida, 2021

[88] Mayo Clinic. (2021). *Premature Birth*. Retrieved from https://www.mayoclinic.org/diseases-conditions/premature-birth/symptoms-causes/syc-20376730
[89] Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. (2021). *Preterm Birth*. Retrieved from https://www.cdc.gov/reproductivehealth/maternalinfanthealth/pretermbirth.htm
[90] Laurore, J., Baziyants, G., and Daily, S. (2020). Health Care Access for Infants and Toddlers in Rural Areas. *Child Trends*. Retrieved from https://www.childtrends.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/07/Rural-health-iniquities_ChildTrends_July2020.pdf
[91] U.S. Department of Health and Human Service. Healthy People 2030. Reduce preterm births — MICH-07. https://health.gov/healthypeople/objectives-and-data/browse-objectives/pregnancy-and-childbirth/reduce-preterm-births-mich-07

Resident Fetal Death Rate per 1,000 Deliveries

Fetal death refers to the death of a fetus at any time during pregnancy.[92] Fetal deaths later in pregnancy, at 20 weeks of gestation or more, are sometimes referred to as stillbirths. As of 2017, the United States reported 5.9 fetal deaths at 20 or more weeks of gestation per 1,000 live births and fetal deaths.[93]

The table below shows the resident fetal death rate per 1,000 deliveries in the Glades Region from 2015 to 2019. In Belle Glade, the fetal death rate fluctuated from 2015 to 2017, and decreased from 9.0 deaths per 1,000 deliveries in 2017 to 5.9 deaths per 1,000 in 2018, and increased sharply to 19.4 in 2020. Notably, Pahokee saw a dramatic increase from 7.1 deaths per 1,000 deliveries in 2018 to 25.9 deaths per 1,000 deliveries in 2019.

The Healthy People 2030 national target is to reduce the number of fetal deaths to 5.7 fetal deaths per 1,000 live births and fetal deaths.[94]

Table 53: Resident Fetal Death Rate per 1,000 Deliveries, Glades Region, 2016-2020

ZIP Code	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
Palm Beach County	7.3	6.3	4.4	6.5	6.3
33430 – Belle Glade	6.3	9.0	5.9	5.8	19.4
33438 – Canal Point	0	0	0	0	0
33476 – Pahokee	8.7	0	7.1	25.9	0
33493 – South Bay	0	0	0	0	0

Notes: Use caution when interpreting rates based on small numbers of events. Rates are considered unstable if they are based on fewer than five events or if the denominator (population at risk) is fewer than twenty.
Source: Florida Health CHARTS, Florida Department of Health, Bureau of Vital Statistics, 2020
Compiled by: Health Council of Southeast Florida, 2021

[92] Centers for Diseases Control and Prevention. (2020). *Fetal Deaths.* Retrieved from https://www.cdc.gov/nchs/nvss/fetal_death.htm
[93] Healthy People 2030. (n.d.). *Pregnancy and Childbirth: Fetal Deaths.* Retrieved from https://health.gov/healthypeople/objectives-and-data/browse-objectives/pregnancy-and-childbirth/reduce-rate-fetal-deaths-20-or-more-weeks-gestation-mich-01
[94] U.S. Department of Health and Human Service. Healthy People 2030. Reduce the rate of fetal deaths at 20 or more weeks of gestation — MICH-01. https://health.gov/healthypeople/objectives-and-data/browse-objectives/pregnancy-and-childbirth/reduce-rate-fetal-deaths-20-or-more-weeks-gestation-mich-01

Resident Infant Death Rate per 1,000 Deliveries

Infant mortality is the death of an infant before his or her first birthday.[95] In 2019, the infant mortality rate in the United States was 5.6 deaths per 1,000 live births. Overall, infant mortality rates tend to be highest in rural areas, and lowest in large, urban areas.[96]

The following table shows the resident infant death rate per 1,000 deliveries in the Glades Region from 2016 to 2020. The infant death rate per 1,000 deliveries fluctuated in Belle Glade during this time frame, and notably decreased from 18.2 in 2017 to 8.8 in 2018, and increased from 8.8 deaths per 1,000 deliveries in 2018 to 14.7 per 1,000 deliveries in 2019. Pahokee also reported a very large increase in infant death rates from 2018 (7.2 per 1,000) to 2019 (17.7 per 1,000). Most recently in 2020, Belle Glade, Canal Point, South Bay reported no infant deaths.

The Healthy People 2030 national target is to reduce the rate of infant deaths to 5.0 deaths per 1,000 live births.[97] As of 2020, Belle Glade, Canal Point, and South Bay are meeting this target, while Pahokee is not.

Table 54: Resident Infant Death Rate per 1,000 deliveries, Glades Region, 2016-2020

ZIP Code	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
Palm Beach County	4.3	4.5	4.8	4.7	3.8
33430 – Belle Glade	12.6	18.2	8.8	14.7	0
33438 – Canal Point	0	0	0	0	0
33476 – Pahokee	8.8	8.1	7.2	17.7	8.6
33493 – South Bay	0	19.6	0	0	0

Note: Use caution when interpreting rates based on small numbers of events. Rates are considered unstable if they are based on fewer than five events or if the denominator (population at risk) is fewer than twenty.
Source: Florida Health CHARTS, Florida Department of Health, Bureau of Vital Statistics, 2020
Compiled by: Health Council of Southeast Florida, 2021

[95] Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. (2021). *Infant Mortality*. Retrieved from https://www.cdc.gov/reproductivehealth/maternalinfanthealth/infantmortality.htm
[96] Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. (2014). *Infant Mortality Rates in Rural and Urban Areas in the United States*. Retrieved from https://www.cdc.gov/nchs/products/databriefs/db285.htm
[97] U.S. Department of Health and Human Service. Healthy People 2030. Reduce the rate of infant deaths – MICH-02. https://health.gov/healthypeople/objectives-and-data/browse-objectives/infants/reduce-rate-infant-deaths-mich-02

Breastfeeding

The U.S. Dietary Guidelines for Americans and the American Academy of Pediatrics recommend mothers exclusively breastfeed for six months and then continue breastfeeding while introducing complementary foods until a child is 12 months old or older. This is important because breastfeeding protects infants against short- and long-term illnesses and diseases such as asthma, obesity, and Type 1 diabetes.[98]

Mothers Who Initiate Breastfeeding

The table below shows the count of mothers who initiated breastfeeding after birth in the Glades Region from 2016 to 2020. Overall, the total number of mothers who initiated breastfeeding in the Glades Region remained consistent between 2016 and 2020, fluctuating from 313 in 2016 to 310 in 2020. Belle Glade (ZIP Code 33430) consistently had the highest percentage of mother who initiated breastfeeding in the region.

The Healthy People 2030 national target is to increase the percent of infants that are breastfed exclusively up to six months of age to 42.4%.[99] Although the data below does not show the proportion of infants who are exclusively breastfed for their first 6 months, each year from 2016 to 2020, over 63% of total births were among mothers who initiated breastfeeding after birth.

Table 55: Mothers Who Initiate Breastfeeding, Glades Region, 2015- 2020

ZIP Code	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
33430 – Belle Glade	209	214	225	236	201
33438 – Canal Point	3	5	4	2	5
33476 – Pahokee	69	71	78	54	77
33493 – South Bay	32	34	31	25	27
Total Mothers who Initiated Breastfeeding after Birth/ Total Births (%)	313/492 (63.6%)	324/511 (63.4%)	338/530 (63.8%)	317/501 (63.3%)	310/480 (64.6%)

Data Source: Florida Health CHARTS, Bureau of Vital Statistics, 2021
Compiled by: Health Council of Southeast Florida, 2021

[98] Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. (2020). *Breastfeeding.* Retrieved from https://www.cdc.gov/nutrition/InfantandToddlerNutrition/breastfeeding/index.html
[99] Office of Disease Prevention and Health Promotion. (n.d.). *Healthy People 2030: Infants*. Retrieved from https://health.gov/healthypeople/objectives-and-data/browse-objectives/infants

Mental Health

Mental Disorder Emergency Department Utilization

According to the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration, in the United States, overall mental health service utilization was highest among White adults (18.3%), followed by adults reporting two or more races (17.6%), American Indian or Alaska Native (14.4%), Black (8.9%), Hispanic (8.7%), Native Hawaiian or Pacific Islander (6.9%), and Asian (5.9%) adults.[100] Regarding outpatient mental health services, the highest utilization rates were reported among adults reporting two or more races (10.2%), followed by White (9.0%), American Indian or Alaska Native (7.6%), Black (5.0%), and Asian (3.8%) adults. Additionally, females were more likely than males to utilize mental health outpatient services. White males utilized mental health service more than males of all other races, and White females also reported higher utilization than females of all other races. For every age group, White adults were more likely to use mental health services than adults of all other races. Socioeconomic and environmental factors, including access to insurance and available transportation, contribute to these disparities.

Additionally, among the one-fifth of all Americans who live in a rural area, it is estimated that 20% have a mental illness.[101] While rates of mental illness and disorders are similar between rural and urban areas, those in rural areas are less likely to receive mental health treatment. Moreover, a recent international study found that the COVID-19 pandemic had a negative impact on mental health, with poor outcomes strongly correlated with financial hardships, and 60% of the sample experiencing moderate or low levels of mental health.[102] While we present pre-pandemic numbers in this section, it is possible that more recent data will show an increase in mental disorder emergency department utilization.

The table below shows the number of mental disorder emergency department diagnoses by race in the Glades Region in 2019. Across all Glades ZIP codes, except 33438 (Canal Point), Black or African American patients accounted for higher proportions of those diagnosed with a mental disorder in an emergency department setting compared to those of other races.

Healthy People 2030 has not set a national target for mental disorder emergency department utilization, but does have a national target to increase the proportion of people with substance use and mental health disorders who get treatment to 8.2%.[103]

[100] Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration. (2021). *Racial/Ethnic Differences in Mental Health Service Use among Adults and Adolescents (2015-2019).* Retrieved from https://www.samhsa.gov/data/sites/default/files/reports/rpt35324/2021NSDUHMHChartbook102221B.pdf

[101] Morales, D. A., et al. (20200. A call to action to address rural mental health disparities. *Journal of clinical and translational science (4)*5, 463-467. https://doi:10.1017/cts.2020.42

[102] Gloser, A.T., Lamnisos, D., Lubenko, J., et al. (2020). Impact of COVID-19 pandemic on mental health: An international study. *PLoS One.* 15(12). doi: 10.1371/journal.pone.0244809.

[103] U.S. Department of Health and Human Service. Healthy People 2030. Increase the proportion of people with substance use and mental health disorders who get treatment – MHMD-07. https://health.gov/healthypeople/objectives-and-data/browse-objectives/mental-health-and-mental-disorders/increase-proportion-people-substance-use-and-mental-health-disorders-who-get-treatment-both-mhmd-07

Table 56: Mental Disorder Emergency Department Utilization, By Race, Glades Region ZIP Codes, 2019

ZIP Code	Race	Principal Diagnosis	Other Diagnosis 1-3	Total
33430 - Belle Glade	Black or African American	146	1,082	1,228 (74.9%)
	Other	4	17	21 (1.3%)
	Unknown	0	5	5 (0.3%)
	White	53	332	385 (23.5%)
	Total	203	1,436	1,639 (100%)
33438 - Canal Point	Black or African American	2	0	2 (5.3%)
	Other	0	3	3 (7.9%)
	Unknown	0	0	0 (0%)
	White	0	33	33 (86.8%)
	Total	2	36	38 (100%)
33479 - Pahokee	Asian	0	1	1 (0.15%)
	Black or African American	55	475	530 (81.7%)
	Other	0	4	4 (0.62%)
	Unknown	0	0	0 (0.0%)
	White	11	103	111 (17.1%)
	Total	66	583	649 (100%)
33493 - South Bay	Black or African American	32	254	286 (79.0%)
	Other	0	2	2 (0.55%)
	Unknown	0	0	0 (0%)
	White	8	66	74 (20.4%)
	Total	40	322	362 (100%)

Source: Agency for Healthcare Administration, 2019
ICD Codes: F10-F69, F90-F99
Compiled by: Health Council of Southeast Florida, 2021

Mental Disorder Emergency Department Utilization, By Ethnicity

The table below shows the number of mental disorder emergency department diagnoses by ethnicity in the Glades Region in 2019. Across all ZIP codes in the Glades Region, non-Hispanic patients were much more likely to receive a mental disorder diagnosis compared to Hispanic patients.

Table 57: Mental Disorder Emergency Department Utilization, By Ethnicity, Glades Region ZIP Codes, 2019

ZIP Code	Ethnicity	Principal Diagnosis	Other Diagnosis 1-3	Total
33430 - Belle Glade	Hispanic	45	220	265 (16.1%)
	Non-Hispanic	156	1,212	1,368 (83.5%)
	Unknown	2	4	6 (0.37%)
	Total	203	1,436	1,639 (100%)
33438 - Canal Point	Hispanic	0	11	11 (28.9%)
	Non-Hispanic	2	25	27 (71.1%)
	Unknown	0	0	0 (0%)
	Total	2	36	38 (100%)
33476 - Pahokee	Hispanic	4	46	50 (7.7%)
	Non-Hispanic	62	536	598 (92.1%)
	Unknown	0	1	1 (0.15%)
	Total	66	583	649 (100%)
33493 - South Bay	Hispanic	6	37	43 (11.9%)
	Non-Hispanic	34	285	319 (88.1%)
	Unknown	0	0	0 (0%)
	Total	40	322	362 (100%)

Source: Florida Health Finder, Agency for Healthcare Administration, 2019
ICD Codes: F10-F69, F90-F99
Compiled by: Health Council of Southeast Florida, 2021

Mental Disorder Emergency Department Utilization, By Sex

The table below shows the total number of mental disorder emergency department diagnoses by sex in the Glades Region in 2019. Across all ZIP codes in the Glades Region, male patients accounted for a higher proportion of a mental disorder diagnoses compared to female patients. However, female patients accounted for a higher proportion of principal mental disorder diagnoses in Belle Glade (54.2%) and Pahokee (54.5%), whereas male patients accounted for a higher proportion of other mental disorder diagnoses in those same areas.

Table 58: Mental Disorder Emergency Department Utilization, By Sex, Glades Region ZIP Codes, 2019

ZIP Code	Sex	Principal Diagnosis	Other Diagnosis 1-3	Total
33430 - Belle Glade	Female	110	653	763 (46.6%)
	Male	93	783	876 (53.4%)
	Total	203	1,436	1,639 (100%)
33438 - Canal Point	Female	1	14	15 (39.5%)
	Male	1	22	23 (60.5%)
	Total	2	36	38 (100%)
33476 - Pahokee	Female	36	269	305 (47.0%)
	Male	30	314	344 (53.0%)
	Total	66	583	649 (100%)
33493 - South Bay	Female	16	122	138 (38.1%)
	Male	24	200	224 (61.9%)
	Total	40	322	362 (100%)

Source: Florida Health Finder, Agency for Healthcare Administration, 2019
ICD Codes: F10-F69, F90-F99
Compiled by: Health Council of Southeast Florida, 2021

Mental Disorder Emergency Department Utilization, By Age

The following table shows the total number of mental disorder emergency department diagnoses by age in the Glades Region in 2019. Patients between the ages of 31 and 40 (27.5%) accounted for the highest proportion of those diagnosed with a mental disorder, followed by those ages 21 to 30 (23.7%).

Table 59: Mental Disorder Emergency Department Utilization, By Age, Glades Region ZIP Codes, 2019

Age	Principal Diagnosis	Other Diagnosis 1-3	Total
0-10 Years	1	9	10 (0.37%)
11-20 Years	42	156	198 (7.37%)
21-30 Years	59	577	636 (23.7%)
31-40 Years	65	674	739 (27.5%)
41-50 Years	58	388	446 (16.6%)
51-60 Years	36	319	355 (13.2%)
61-70 Years	35	171	206 (7.7%)
71-80 Years	14	76	90 (3.3%)
81-90 Years	0	6	6 (0.22%)
91-99+ Years	1	1	2 (0.07%)
Total	311	2,377	2,688 (100%)

Source: Florida Health Finder, Agency for Healthcare Administration, 2019
ICD Codes: F10-F69, F90-F99
Compiled by: Health Council of Southeast Florida, 2021

Mental Disorder Inpatient Utilization, By Race

Inpatient hospitals, where patients stay overnight, can provide care for individuals afflicted by mental disorders. Nationally, between 2015 and 2019, inpatient mental health service use was highest among Black adults (1.5%) as compared to adults of other races, and highest among Hispanic adults (1.0%) as compared to adults of other ethnicities.[104] Females were more likely than males to utilize mental health inpatient services, as well. As mentioned previously, individuals living in rural areas are less likely to receive care for mental illness compared non-rural residents. Additionally, with the impact of the pandemic on mental health, it is likely that we will see an increase in mental disorder inpatient utilization as more recent data becomes available.

The following table shows the total number of mental disorder inpatient diagnoses by race in the Glades Region in 2019.

There is no Healthy People 2030 national target currently set for mental disorder inpatient utilization; however, as previously mentioned, there is a national target to increase the proportion of people with substance use and mental health disorders who get treatment to 8.2%.[105]

[104] Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration. (2021). *Racial/Ethnic Differences in Mental Health Service Use among Adults and Adolescents (2015-2019).* Retrieved from https://www.samhsa.gov/data/sites/default/files/reports/rpt35324/2021NSDUHMHChartbook102221B.pdf

[105] U.S. Department of Health and Human Service. Healthy People 2030. Increase the proportion of people with substance use and mental health disorders who get treatment – MHMD-07. https://health.gov/healthypeople/objectives-and-data/browse-objectives/mental-health-and-mental-disorders/increase-proportion-people-substance-use-and-mental-health-disorders-who-get-treatment-both-mhmd-07

Table 60: Mental Disorder Inpatient Utilization, By Race, Glades Region ZIP Codes, 2019

ZIP Code	Race	Principal Diagnosis	Other Diagnosis 1-3	Total
33430 - Belle Glade	Black or African American	56	133	189 (69.5%)
	Other	7	17	24 (8.8%)
	Unknown	1	24	25 (9.2%)
	White	16	23	39 (14.3%)
	Total	80	192	272 (100%)
33438 - Canal Point	Black or African American	0	1	1 (7.7%)
	Other	0	0	0 (0%)
	Unknown	0	2	2 (15.4%)
	White	2	8	10 (76.9%)
	Total	2	11	13 (100%)
33476 - Pahokee	Black or African American	24	69	93 (80.1%)
	Other	1	2	3 (2.6%)
	Unknown	0	0	0 (0%)
	White	4	16	20 (17.2%)
	Total	29	87	116 (100%)
33493 - South Bay	Black or African American	14	39	53 (77.9%)
	Other	0	5	5 (7.4%)
	Unknown	0	1	1 (1.5%)
	White	0	9	9 (13.2%)
	Total	14	54	68 (100%)

Source: Florida Health Finder, Agency for Healthcare Administration, 2019
Compiled by: Health Council of Southeast Florida, 2021

Mental Disorder Inpatient Utilization, By Ethnicity

This table below shows the total number of mental disorder inpatient diagnoses by ethnicity in the Glades Region in 2019. Overall, non-Hispanics comprise the majority of all principal, other, and total mental disorder diagnoses in an inpatient setting. This trend was reflected across all ZIP codes – 33430, 33438, 33476, and 33493.

Table 61: Mental Disorder Inpatient Utilization, By Ethnicity, Glades Region ZIP Codes, 2019

ZIP Code	Ethnicity	Principal Diagnosis	Other Diagnosis 1-3	Total
33430 - Belle Glade	Hispanic	10	30	40 (14.7%)
	Non-Hispanic	69	162	231 (84.9%)
	Unknown	1	0	1 (0.37%)
	Total	80	192	272 (100%)
33438 - Canal Point	Hispanic	0	0	0 (0%)
	Non-Hispanic	2	11	13 (100%)
	Unknown	0	0	0 (0%)
	Total	2	11	13 (100%)
33476 - Pahokee	Hispanic	1	11	12 (10.3%)
	Non-Hispanic	27	74	101 (87.1%)
	Unknown	1	2	3 (2.6%)
	Total	29	87	116 (100%)
33493 - South Bay	Hispanic	0	8	8 (11.8%)
	Non-Hispanic	14	46	60 (88.2%)
	Unknown	0	0	0 (0%)
	Total	14	54	68 (100%)

Source: Florida Health Finder, Agency for Healthcare Administration, 2019
ICD Codes: F10-F69, F90-F99
Compiled by: Health Council of Southeast Florida, 2021

Mental Disorder Inpatient Utilization, By Sex

The table below shows the total number of mental disorder inpatient diagnoses by sex in the Glades Region in 2019. Overall, males comprise the majority of all principal, other, and total inpatient mental disorder diagnoses. This trend was reflected across all ZIP codes – 33430, 33438, 33476, and 33493 – with notable exceptions among females in Canal Point receiving the majority other mental health diagnoses, as well females in South Bay receiving the majority of principal mental health diagnoses.

Table 62: Mental Disorder Inpatient Utilization, By Sex, Glades Region ZIP Codes, 2019

ZIP Code	Sex	Principal Diagnosis	Other Diagnosis 1-3	Total
33430 - Belle Glade	Female	31	88	119 (43.8%)
	Male	49	104	153 (56.2%)
	Total	80	192	272 (100%)
33438 - Canal Point	Female	1	7	8 (61.5%)
	Male	1	4	5 (38.5%)
	Total	2	11	13 (100%)
33476 - Pahokee	Female	13	36	49 (42.2%)
	Male	16	51	67 (57.8%)
	Total	29	87	116 (100%)
33493 - South Bay	Female	8	20	28 (41.2%)
	Male	6	34	40 (58.8%)
	Total	14	54	68 (100%)

Source: Florida Health Finder, Agency for Healthcare Administration, 2019
ICD Codes: F10-F69, F90-F99
Compiled by: Health Council of Southeast Florida, 2021

Mental Disorder Inpatient Utilization, By Age

The table below shows the total number of mental disorder inpatient diagnoses by age in the Glades Region in 2019. Overall, the highest totals for mental disorder inpatient utilization were reported among the ages of 11-20 years, followed by 21-30 years, and 31-40 years. The highest number of principal diagnoses was reported among those aged 11-20 years, and the highest number of other diagnoses 1-3 was reported among those aged 21-30 years.

Table 63: Mental Disorder Inpatient Utilization, By Age, Glades Region ZIP Codes, 2019

Age	Principal Diagnosis	Other Diagnosis 1-3	Total
0-10 Years	1	2	3 (0.64%)
11-20 Years	44	56	100 (21.3%)
21-30 Years	18	87	105 (22.4%)
31-40 Years	17	63	80 (17.1%)
41-50 Years	11	42	53 (11.3%)
51-60 Years	19	51	70 (14.9%)
61-70 Years	12	23	35 (7.5%)
71-80 Years	3	18	21 (4.5%)
81-90 Years	0	0	0 (0%)
91-99+ Years	0	2	2 (0.43%)
Total	125	344	469 (100%)

Source: Florida Health Finder, Agency for Healthcare Administration, 2019
ICD Codes: F10-F69, F90-F99
Compiled by: Health Council of Southeast Florida, 2021

Morbidity

Asthma

Asthma is a chronic lung disease that inflames and narrows the airways causing recurring attacks of symptoms, such as wheezing and coughing. Inflammation makes the airways sensitive to various allergens and irritants in the environment, including mold, dust mites, animal dander, pollen, diesel emissions and tobacco smoke. This disease affects people of all ages but is one of the most common long-term diseases among children.[106]

In rural regions, asthmatic adults and children can be triggered by agricultural practices and chemicals, and the lack of respiratory specialists in rural counties often makes asthma management difficult. However, in more urban areas, higher average daily traffic increases exposure to car emissions that can trigger asthma in adults and children, and limited access to public transportation often makes getting to medical appointments difficult.

Additionally, it is important to note the impact that the pandemic has had on the prevalence and management of asthma, with individuals dealing with asthma at higher risk for worse health outcomes due to severe respiratory distress caused by COVID-19.

The Healthy People 2030 goal is to reduce emergency department visits for people aged 5 years and over with asthma to 44 per 10,000 persons aged 5 years and over.[107] The Glades Region is currently not meeting this target, with a rate of 243.5 per 10,000.

[106] Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. (2021). *Learn How to Control Asthma.* Retrieved from https://www.cdc.gov/asthma/faqs.htm

[107] US Department of Health and Human Services. Healthy People 2030. Reduce emergency department visits for people aged 5 years and over with asthma – RD-03. https://health.gov/healthypeople/objectives-and-data/browse-objectives/respiratory-disease/reduce-emergency-department-visits-people-aged-5-years-and-over-asthma-rd-03

Emergency Department Visits from or with Asthma

The table below shows the percentage of emergency department visits from or with an asthma diagnosis by residents of select ZIP codes in the Glades Region of Palm Beach County in 2020. Among residents of the Glades Region, residents of Belle Glade represented the highest percent of principal (3.8%) and other diagnoses (4.7%) due to asthma compared to the other ZIP codes. This was followed by residents of Pahokee, with 1.4% of principal diagnose and 1.7% of other diagnoses.

Table 64: Emergency Department Visits from or with Asthma, Glades Region, 2020

ZIP Code	Asthma			
	Principal Diagnosis		Other Diagnoses 1-3	
	Count	Percent	Count	Percent
Palm Beach County	3,135	100%	9,003	100%
33430 - Belle Glade	120	3.8%	422	4.7%
33438 - Canal Point	1	0.0%	7	0.1%
33476 - Pahokee	45	1.4%	153	1.7%
33493 - South Bay	22	0.7%	74	0.8%
Total	188	6.0%	656	7.3%
HP2030: Rate of Total Emergency Department Visits from or with Asthma per 10,000 Persons 5 Years and Older				243.5

Source: Florida Agency for Health Care Administration, 2020
Compiled by: Health Council of Southeast Florida, 2021
Data Note: ICD-10 Code J45

Emergency Department Visits from or with Asthma, By Race

The table below shows the percentage of emergency department visits from or with an asthma diagnosis by race among residents of select ZIP codes in the Glades Region of Palm Beach County in 2020. The majority of asthma-related emergency department visits were among Black residents (85.2%), followed by White residents (13.4%).

Table 65: Emergency Department Visits from or with Asthma, By Race, Glades Region, 2020

Race	Count	Percent
American Indian and Alaska Native	0	0.0%
Asian	0	0.0%
Black or African American	719	85.2%
Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander	0	0.0%
Other	12	1.4%
Unknown	0	0.0%
White	113	13.4%
Total	844	100%

Source: Florida Agency for Health Care Administration, 2020
Compiled by: Health Council of Southeast Florida, 2021
Data Note: ICD-10 Code J45

Emergency Department Visits from or with Asthma, By Ethnicity

The table below shows the percentage of emergency department visits from or with an asthma diagnosis by ethnicity among residents of select ZIP codes in the Glades Region of Palm Beach County in 2020. The majority of asthma-related emergency department visits were among non-Hispanic or Latinos (88.9%) compared to Hispanic or Latinos of any race (10.7%)

Table 66: Emergency Department Visits from or with Asthma, By Ethnicity, Glades Region, 2020

Ethnicity	Count	Percent
Hispanic or Latino (Any Race)	90	10.7%
Non-Hispanic or Latino	750	88.9%
Unknown	4	0.5%
Total	844	100%

Source: Florida Agency for Health Care Administration, 2020
Compiled by: Health Council of Southeast Florida, 2021
Data Note: ICD-10 Code J45

Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease

Chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD) is a group of diseases, which includes emphysema, chronic bronchitis, and non-reversible asthma. COPD can make it difficult to breathe and can ultimately result in death. According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, chronic lower respiratory disease, specifically COPD, was the fourth leading cause of death in the United States in 2018. Based on 2013 data, the following groups were more likely to report COPD: women, adults ages 65 and older, American Indians/Alaska Natives, multiracial non-Hispanics, current or former smokers, and people with a history of asthma.[108] Similar to asthma, exposure to air pollution due to agricultural practices and chemicals in rural communities is also a risk factor for COPD. Importantly, COPD patients are also at increased risk for hospitalization for COVID-19.[109]

Emergency Department Visits from or with Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease

The table below shows the percentage of emergency department visits from or with COPD among residents of select ZIP codes in the Glades Region of Palm Beach County in 2020. Among residents of the Glades Region, Belle Glade residents represented the highest percent of principal (3.3%) and other diagnoses (3.9%) due to COPD compared to all other ZIP codes. This was followed by residents of Pahokee with 1.5% of principal diagnoses and 2.3% of other diagnoses.

The Healthy People 2030 national target is to reduce emergency department visits for COPD in adults to 64 per 10,000 population.[110] In 2020, the Glades Region had not met this target with a rate of 115.5 per 10,000 population.

Table 67: Emergency Department Visits from or with Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease, Glades Region, 2020

ZIP Code	Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease			
	Principal Diagnosis		Other Diagnoses 1-3	
	Count	Percent	Count	Percent
Palm Beach County	4,151	100%	2,903	100%
33430 - Belle Glade	137	3.3%	114	3.9%
33438 - Canal Point	6	0.1%	6	0.2%
33476 - Pahokee	62	1.5%	66	2.3%
33493 - South Bay	23	0.6%	20	0.7%
Total	228	5.5%	206	7.1%
HP2030: Rate of Total Emergency Department Visits from or with Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease per 10,000 Population				115.5

Source: Florida Agency for Health Care Administration, 2020; Compiled by: Health Council of Southeast Florida, 2021; Data Note: ICD-10 Code J20, J40, J41, J42, J43, J44, J47

[108] Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. (2021). *Basics About COPD.* Retrieved from https://www.cdc.gov/copd/basics-about.html
[109] Hapin, D.M.G., Vogelmeier, C.F. & Agusti, A.A. (2021). COPD & COVID-19. *Arch Bronconeumol.* 57(3): 162-164. 10.1016/j.arbr.2021.01.004
[110] US Department of Health and Human Services. Healthy People 2030. Reduce emergency department visits for COPD in adults – RD-06. https://health.gov/healthypeople/objectives-and-data/browse-objectives/respiratory-disease/reduce-emergency-department-visits-copd-adults-rd-06

Emergency Department Visits from or with Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease, By Race

The table below shows the percentage of emergency department visits from or with COPD by race among residents of select ZIP codes in the Glades Region of Palm Beach County in 2020. The majority of emergency department visits due to COPD among residents of the Glades Region were among Black residents (74.0%), followed by White residents (25.6%)

Table 68: Emergency Department Visits from or with Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease, By Race, Glades Region, 2020

Race	Count	Percent
American Indian and Alaska Native	0	0.0%
Asian	0	0.0%
Black or African American	321	74.0%
Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander	0	0.0%
Other	2	0.5%
Unknown	0	0.0%
White	111	25.6%
Total	434	100%

Source: Florida Agency for Health Care Administration, 2020
Compiled by: Health Council of Southeast Florida, 2021
Data Note: ICD-10 Code J20, J40, J41, J42, J43, J44, J47

Emergency Department Visits from or with Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease, By Ethnicity

The table below shows the percentage of emergency department visits from or with COPD by ethnicity among residents of select ZIP codes in the Glades Region of Palm Beach County in 2020. The majority of emergency department visits were among non-Hispanic or Latino residents (88.0%) compared Hispanic or Latino residents (12.0%).

Table 69: Emergency Department Visits from or with Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease, By Ethnicity, Glades Region, 2020

Ethnicity	Count	Percent
Hispanic or Latino (Any Race)	52	12.0%
Non-Hispanic or Latino	382	88.0%
Unknown	0	0.0%
Total	434	100%

Source: Florida Agency for Health Care Administration, 2020
Compiled by: Health Council of Southeast Florida, 2021
Data Note: ICD-10 Code J20, J40, J41, J42, J43, J44, J47

Hypertension

Hypertension is defined by the American College of Cardiology and the American Heart Association as blood pressure that is at or above 130 over 60 millimeters of mercury (mm Hg). Having hypertension puts individuals at risk for heart disease and stroke, the leading cause and fifth leading cause of death in the United States, respectively.[111]

Certain factors can put an individual at increased risk of hypertension including certain health conditions, lifestyle behaviors, and a family history of hypertension. The risk of hypertension also increases with age, because blood pressure tends to rise as an individual gets older. In addition to age, other risk factors include sex, race, and ethnicity. Compared to men, women are more likely to develop hypertension. Black Americans develop hypertension earlier in life compared to White Americans, and Black Americans develop hypertension more often than Hispanics and other racial and ethnic groups.[112] In addition, research demonstrates a link between COVID-19 and hypertension, with hypertensive patients at increased risk for severe COVID-19 illness and hospitalization.[113]

Emergency Department Visits from or with Hypertension

The table below shows the percent of emergency department visits from or with hypertension among residents of select ZIP codes in the Glades Region of Palm Beach County in 2020. Among residents of the Glades Region, Belle Glade residents had the highest percentage of principal (2.1%) and other diagnoses (4.1%) due to hypertension. While there is no Healthy People 2030 target related to hypertension-related emergency department visits, there is a national target to reduce the proportion of adults with high blood pressure to 27.7%.[114]

Table 70: Emergency Department Visits from or with Hypertension, Glades Region, 2020

ZIP Code	Hypertension			
	Principal Diagnosis		Other Diagnoses 1-3	
	Count	Percent	Count	Percent
Palm Beach County	3,712	100%	47,897	100%
33430 - Belle Glade	77	2.1%	1,984	4.1%
33438 - Canal Point	0	0.0%	50	0.1%
33476 - Pahokee	35	0.9%	716	1.5%
33493 - South Bay	19	0.5%	332	0.7%
Total	131	3.5%	3,082	6.4%

Source: Florida Agency for Health Care Administration, 2020; Compiled by: Health Council of Southeast Florida, 2021; Data Note: ICD-10 Code I10, I11.9

[111] National Center for Chronic Disease Prevention and Health Promotion, Division for Heart Disease and Stroke Prevention. (2020). *Facts About Hypertension.* Retrieved from https://www.cdc.gov/bloodpressure/facts.htm
[112] National Center for Chronic Disease Prevention and Health Promotion, Division for Heart Disease and Stroke Prevention. (2020). *Blood Pressure Risk.* Retrieved from https://www.cdc.gov/bloodpressure/risk_factors.htm
[113] Muhamad, S., Ugusman, A., Kumar, J., et al. (2021). COVID-19 and Hypertension: The What, the Why, and the How. *Front Physiol*. 12. 10.3389/fphys.2021.665064
[114] US Department of Health and Human Services. Healthy People 2030. Reduce the proportion of adults with high blood pressure – HDS-04. https://health.gov/healthypeople/objectives-and-data/browse-objectives/heart-disease-and-stroke/reduce-proportion-adults-high-blood-pressure-hds-04

Emergency Department Visits from or with Hypertension, By Race

The table below shows the percentage of emergency department visits from or with hypertension by race among residents of select ZIP codes in the Glades Region of Palm Beach County in 2020. The majority of emergency department visits due to hypertension were among Black residents (78.1%), followed by White residents (20.0%).

Table 71: Emergency Department Visits from or with Hypertension, By Race, Glades Region, 2020

Race	Count	Percent
American Indian and Alaska Native	0	0.0%
Asian	3	0.1%
Black or African American	2,510	78.1%
Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander	0	0.0%
Other	48	1.5%
Unknown	9	0.3%
White	643	20.0%
Total	3,213	100%

Source: Florida Agency for Health Care Administration, 2020
Compiled by: Health Council of Southeast Florida, 2021
Data Note: ICD-10 Code I10, I11.9

Emergency Department Visits from or with Hypertension, By Ethnicity

The table below shows the percentage of emergency department visits from or with hypertension by ethnicity among residents of select ZIP codes in the Glades Region of Palm Beach County in 2020. The majority of emergency department visits due to hypertension were among non-Hispanic or Latino residents (85.8%).

Table 72: Emergency Department Visits from or with Hypertension, By Ethnicity, Glades Region, 2020

Ethnicity	Count	Percent
Hispanic or Latino (Any Race)	448	13.9%
Non-Hispanic or Latino	2,757	85.8%
Unknown	8	0.2%
Total	3,213	100%

Source: Florida Agency for Health Care Administration, 2020
Compiled by: Health Council of Southeast Florida, 2021
Data Note: ICD-10 Code I10, I11.9

Dental Conditions

Oral health refers to the health of the teeth, gums, and the entire oral-facial system that allows us to smile, speak, and chew. Some of the most common diseases that impact our oral health include cavities (tooth decay), gum (periodontal) disease, and oral cancer. Tooth decay is the most common chronic disease in children and adults in the United States.[115] To prevent these dental conditions, routine preventative dental care is essential. Many people, however, are unable to afford dental care compared to other types of health care. Dental care is also not covered by Medicare, and Medicaid programs are not required to provide dental benefits to adult enrollees.[116] Factors that are known to contribute to oral health challenges in rural communities include a lack of access to dental care, lower oral health literacy, a lack of fluoridated water supplies, and a higher prevalence of tobacco use. [117] Importantly, evidence suggests that people with COVID-19 who have severe gum disease are at increased risk for severe illness.[118]

Emergency Department Visits from Or with Dental Conditions

The table below shows the percentage of emergency department visits from or with a diagnosis of dental conditions among residents of select ZIP codes in the Glades Region of Palm Beach County in 2020. Among residents of the Glades Region, residents from the ZIP code 33430 of Belle Glade contributed to the majority of principal (4.8%) and other diagnosis (4.5%). While there is no Healthy People 2030 goal related to dental-related emergency department visits, there is a national target to reduce the proportion of people who can't get the dental care they need when they need it.[119] With access to adequate dental care, there would be a very likely reduction in these visits.

Table 73: Emergency Department Visits from Or with Dental Conditions, Glades Region, 2020

ZIP Code	Dental Conditions			
	Principal Diagnosis		Other Diagnoses 1-3	
	Count	Percent	Count	Percent
Palm Beach County	3,275	100%	1,175	100%
33430 - Belle Glade	156	4.8%	53	4.5%
33438 - Canal Point	2	0.1%	0	0.0%
33476 - Pahokee	81	2.5%	25	2.1%
33493 - South Bay	29	0.9%	12	1.0%
Total	268	8.2%	90	7.7%

Source: Florida Agency for Health Care Administration, 2020; Compiled by: Health Council of Southeast Florida, 2021; Data Note: ICD-10 Code K02, K03, K04, K05, K06.0, K06.1, K08, K09.8, K12, K13, M276, A69.0

[115] Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. (2020). *Oral Health Conditions*. Retrieved from https://www.cdc.gov/oralhealth/conditions/index.html
[116] Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. (2021). *Disparities in Oral Health*. Retrieved from https://www.cdc.gov/oralhealth/oral_health_disparities/index.htm
[117] Rural Health Information Hub. (n.d.). *Oral Health in Rural Communities*. Retrieved from https://www.ruralhealthinfo.org/topics/oral-health
[118] American Dental Association (2021). COVID-19 and Oral Health Conditions. Retrieved from https://www.ada.org/about/press-releases/2021-archives/covid-19-and-oral-health-conditions
[119] US Department of Health and Human Services. Healthy People 2030. Reduce the proportion of people who can't get the dental care they need when they need it – AHS-05. https://health.gov/healthypeople/objectives-and-data/browse-objectives/health-care-access-and-quality/reduce-proportion-people-who-cant-get-dental-care-they-need-when-they-need-it-ahs-05

Emergency Department Visits from or with Dental Conditions, By Race

The table below shows the percentage of emergency department visits from or with dental conditions by race among residents of select ZIP codes in the Glades Region of Palm Beach County in 2020. The majority of emergency department visits due to dental conditions were among Black residents (85.5%), followed by White residents (12.6%).

Table 74: Emergency Department Visits from or with Dental Conditions, By Race, Glades Region, 2020

Race	Count	Percent
American Indian and Alaska Native	0	0.0%
Asian	0	0.0%
Black or African American	306	85.5%
Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander	0	0.0%
Other	6	1.7%
Unknown	1	0.3%
White	45	12.6%
Total	358	100%

Source: Florida Agency for Health Care Administration, 2020
Compiled by: Health Council of Southeast Florida, 2021
Data Note: ICD-10 Code K02, K03, K04, K05, K06.0, K06.1, K08, K09.8 , K12, K13, M276, A69.0

Emergency Department Visits from or with Dental Conditions, By Ethnicity

The table below shows the percentage of emergency department visits from or with dental conditions by ethnicity among residents of select ZIP codes in the Glades Region of Palm Beach County in 2020. Emergency department visits due to dental conditions were highest among non-Hispanic or Latino residents (90.8%).

Table 75: Emergency Department Visits from or with Dental Conditions, By Ethnicity, Glades Region, 2020

Ethnicity	Count	Percent
Hispanic or Latino (Any Race)	33	9.2%
Non-Hispanic or Latino	325	90.8%
Unknown	0	0.0%
Total	358	100%

Source: Florida Agency for Health Care Administration, 2020
Compiled by: Health Council of Southeast Florida, 2021
Data Note: ICD-10 Code K02, K03, K04, K05, K06.0, K06.1, K08, K09.8, K12, K13, M276, A69.0

Substance Use

More than 20 million adults and adolescents in the United States had a substance use disorder in the past year. Substance use disorders can involve illicit drugs, prescription drugs, or alcohol. These disorders are also linked to many health problems, and overdoses can lead to emergency department visits and death.[120] According to the Rural Health Information Hub, adults in rural areas report higher rates of tobacco use and methamphetamine use, while prescription drug misuse and heroin use has increased across all communities. Factors that contribute to substance use in rural communities include low educational attainment, poverty, unemployment, lack of access to mental healthcare, and isolation.[121] Importantly, substance use and drug overdoses have greatly increased during the pandemic.[122]

Emergency Department Visits from or with Substance Use

The table below shows the percentage of emergency department visits from or with substance use among residents of select ZIP codes in the Glades Region of Palm Beach County in 2020. The Glades Region contributed to 1.7% of principal diagnosis and 7.2% of other diagnoses due to substance use. Among residents of the Glades Region, residents from the 33430 ZIP code of Belle Glade had the highest percentage of principal diagnosis (1.2%) and other diagnosis (4.3%) due to substance use compared to all other ZIP codes.

Healthy People 2030 has not set a national target for substance use-related emergency department utilization, but, as previously mentioned, does have a national target to increase the proportion of people with substance use and mental health disorders who get treatment to 8.2%.[123]

Table 76: Emergency Department Visits from or with Substance Use, Glades Region, 2020

ZIP Code	Substance Use			
	Principal Diagnosis		Other Diagnoses 1-3	
	Count	Percent	Count	Percent
Palm Beach County	9,724	100%	27,458	100%
33430 - Belle Glade	113	1.2%	1194	4.3%
33438 - Canal Point	1	0.0%	32	0.1%
33476 - Pahokee	33	0.3%	481	1.8%
33493 - South Bay	17	0.2%	264	1.0%
Total	164	1.7%	1,971	7.2%

Source: Florida Agency for Health Care Administration, 2020; Compiled by: Health Council of Southeast Florida, 2021; Data Note: ICD-10 Code F10-F19

[120] Office of Disease Prevention and Health Promotion. (n.d.). *Drug and Alcohol Use: Healthy People 2030*. Retrieved from https://health.gov/healthypeople/objectives-and-data/browse-objectives/drug-and-alcohol-use
[121] Rural Health Information Hub. (n.d.). *Substance Use and Misuse in Rural Areas.* Retrieved from https://www.ruralhealthinfo.org/topics/substance-use
[122] National Institute on Drug Abuse (2021). COVID-19 and substance use.Retrieved from https://nida.nih.gov/drug-topics/comorbidity/covid-19-substance-use
[123] U.S. Department of Health and Human Service. Healthy People 2030. Increase the proportion of people with substance use and mental health disorders who get treatment – MHMD-07. https://health.gov/healthypeople/objectives-and-data/browse-objectives/mental-health-and-mental-disorders/increase-proportion-people-substance-use-and-mental-health-disorders-who-get-treatment-both-mhmd-07

Emergency Department Visits from or with Substance Use, By Race

The table below shows the percentage of emergency department visits from or with substance use by race among residents of select ZIP codes in the Glades Region of Palm Beach County in 2020. The majority of emergency department visits were among Black residents (78.0%) compared to White residents (20.7%).

Table 77: Emergency Department Visits from or with Substance Use, By Race, Glades Region, 2020

Race	Count	Percent
American Indian and Alaska Native	0	0.0%
Asian	1	0.0%
Black or African American	1,665	78.0%
Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander	0	0.0%
Other	22	1.0%
Unknown	4	0.2%
White	443	20.7%
Total	2,135	100%

Source: Florida Agency for Health Care Administration, 2020
Compiled by: Health Council of Southeast Florida, 2021
Data Note: ICD-10 Code F10-F19

Emergency Department Visits from or with Substance Use, By Ethnicity

The table below shows the percentage of emergency department visits from or with substance use by ethnicity among residents of select ZIP codes in the Glades Region of Palm Beach County in 2020. The majority of emergency department visits were among the non-Hispanic or Latino population (87.9%) compared to the Hispanic or Latino population (11.9%).

Table 78: Emergency Department Visits from or with Substance Use, By Ethnicity, Glades Region, 2020

Ethnicity	Count	Percent
Hispanic or Latino (Any Race)	254	11.9%
Non-Hispanic or Latino	1,877	87.9%
Unknown	4	0.2%
Total	2,135	100%

Source: Florida Agency for Health Care Administration, 2020
Compiled by: Health Council of Southeast Florida, 2021
Data Note: ICD-10 Code F10-F19

Mortality

Leading Causes of Death

Chronic diseases are a concern to rural healthcare systems and rural residents due to their impact on quality of life, mortality, and healthcare costs. Compared to urban communities, rural communities have fewer resources to prevent chronic diseases, which are difficult and expensive to treat.[124]

Leading Causes of Deaths

The table below shows the death counts due to the leading causes of death for select ZIP codes in the Glades Region of Palm Beach County in 2020. In the Glades Region overall, the leading cause of death was cardiovascular disease (70) followed by Cancer (48). Cardiovascular disease was also the leading cause of death in Belle Glade (44), Pahokee (16), and Canal Point (3).

[124] Rural Health Information Hub. (n.d.). *Chronic Disease in Rural America.* Retrieved from https://www.ruralhealthinfo.org/topics/chronic-disease

Table 79: Leading Causes of Deaths, Glades Region, 2020

Cause of Death	Belle Glade (33430)	Canal Point (33438)	Pahokee (33476)	South Bay (33493)	Total
Anemias (D50-D64)	1	0	0	0	1
Benign Neoplasms (D00-D48)	0	0	0	0	0
Cardiovascular Diseases (I00-I99)	44	3	16	7	70
Congenital & Chromosomal Anomalies (Q00-Q99)	0	0	1	0	1
Digestive Diseases (K00-K99)	1	0	0	0	1
External Causes (V01-Y89)	24	1	7	4	36
Infectious Diseases (A00-B99,U07.1)	2	0	1	0	3
Malignant Neoplasm (Cancer) (C00-C97)	27	2	11	8	48
Nervous System Diseases (G00-G99)	1	0	2	0	3
Nutritional and Metabolic Diseases (E00-E99)	11	0	5	5	21
Other Causes (Residual)	19	0	1	4	24
Pregnancy, Childbirth and the Puerperium (O00-O99)	1	0	0	0	1
Respiratory Diseases (J00-J99)	14	1	3	1	19
Symptoms, Signs & Abnormal Findings (R00-R99)	0	0	2	0	2
Urinary Tract Diseases (N00-N99)	3	0	1	1	5

Source: Florida Health CHARTS, Bureau of Vital Statistics, 2021
Compiled by: Health Council of Southeast Florida, 2021

Diabetes

Diabetes is a disease that occurs when a person's blood glucose, also called blood sugar, is too high. The most common type of diabetes is type 2 diabetes. Individuals with diabetes are twice as likely to have heart disease or suffer a stroke compared to those without diabetes.[125] Those with diabetes are also more likely to have adverse outcomes at a younger age. Risk factors that put an individual at a higher risk for developing type 2 diabetes include being physically active less than 3 times per week, being overweight, being 45 years or older, or having a close relative with diabetes. [126] Black Americans, Hispanics, American Indians or Alaska Natives are also at a higher risk for developing diabetes compared to those of other races. [127]

Deaths by Diabetes Mellitus

The table below shows the death counts due to diabetes mellitus in the Glades Region of Palm Beach County from 2016 to 2020. Compared to other ZIP codes, the 33430 ZIP code of Belle Glade had the most deaths each year during this time frame with 11 most recently in 2020. Overall, the death count in the Glades Region increased from 7 in 2016 to 21 in 2020.

The Healthy People 2030 national target is to reduce the rate of death from any cause in adults with diabetes to 13.7 per 1,000-person years. Although we are not able to calculate rate per 1,000-person years, the data below shows a steady increase of diabetes-related deaths in the Glades Region.

Table 80: Deaths by Diabetes Mellitus, Glades Region, 2015-2019

ZIP Code	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
Palm Beach County	306	325	297	353	370
33430 – Belle Glade	1	4	9	11	11
33438 – Canal Point	0	1	0	0	0
33476 – Pahokee	5	6	4	3	5
33493 – South Bay	1	3	1	2	5
Total	7	14	14	16	21

Source: Florida Health CHARTS, Bureau of Vital Statistics, 2021
Compiled by: Health Council of Southeast Florida, 2021

[125] Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (2021). *Diabetes and your heart.* Retrieved from https://www.cdc.gov/diabetes/library/features/diabetes-and-heart.html
[126] Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. (2021). *Diabetes risk factors.* Retrieved from https://www.cdc.gov/diabetes/basics/risk-factors.html
[127] Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. (2021). *Diabetes risk factors.* Retrieved from https://www.cdc.gov/diabetes/basics/risk-factors.html

Chronic Lower Respiratory Disease

Chronic respiratory diseases, such as asthma and Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease (COPD), make it difficult to breathe due to problems in the airway and other lung structures. Although death rates for chronic lower respiratory disease (CLRD) are higher in rural areas, rural communities are less likely to have pulmonary rehabilitation facilities and pulmonologists to properly treat the disease.[128]

Deaths by Chronic Lower Respiratory Disease

The table below shows the death counts due to CLRD within the Glades Region from 2016 to 2020. Overall, the total death count in the Glades Region due to CLRD decreased from 14 in 2017 to 6 in 2019, then increased to 10 in 2020.

There is currently no Healthy People 2030 goal related to CLRD or CLRD-related deaths.

Table 81: Deaths by Chronic Lower Respiratory Disease (CLRD), Glades Region, 2015-2019

ZIP Code	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
Palm Beach County	719	745	734	724	669
33430 - Belle Glade	3	6	6	2	7
33438 - Canal Point	1	0	0	2	1
33476 - Pahokee	7	5	4	2	1
33493 - South Bay	0	3	0	0	1
Total	11	14	10	6	10

Source: Florida Health CHARTS, Bureau of Vital Statistics, 2021
Compiled by: Health Council of Southeast Florida, 2021

[128] Rural Health Information Hub. (n.d.). *Chronic Disease in Rural America.* Retrieved from https://www.ruralhealthinfo.org/topics/chronic-disease

Heart Disease Deaths

Cardiovascular Disease Deaths

The following table shows the number of cardiovascular disease deaths in the Glades Region and Palm Beach County from 2016 to 2020. From 2019 to 2020, the total deaths decreased among residents in all areas of the Glades Region but increased in Palm Beach County overall. In 2020, the most cardiovascular disease deaths in the Glades Region occurred in Belle Glade (44) followed by Pahokee (16).

There is no Healthy People 2030 national target directly associated with cardiovascular disease deaths, but there is a national target to improve cardiovascular health in adults, increasing the current mean cardiovascular health score to 3.5.

Table 82: Cardiovascular Disease Deaths, Glades Region and Palm Beach County, 2016 – 2020

ZIP Code	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
Palm Beach County	5,039	5,159	5,262	5,329	5,696
33430 - Belle Glade	40	44	40	51	44
33438 - Canal Point	2	3	2	1	3
33476 - Pahokee	28	28	12	21	16
33493 - South Bay	6	9	4	11	7
Total	76	84	58	84	70

Source: Florida Health CHARTS, Bureau of Vital Statistics, 2021
Compiled by: Health Council of Southeast Florida

Cancer Deaths

Cancer Deaths

The following table shows the number of cancer deaths in the Glades Region and Palm Beach County from 2016 to 2020. The number of cancer deaths among Belle Glade residents decreased from 39 in 2019 to 27 in 2020. Belle Glade also had the highest number of cancer deaths of all areas in the Glades Region each year from 2016 to 2020 followed by Pahokee.

The Healthy People 2030 national target is to reduce the overall cancer death rate to 122.7 per 100,000 population.[129] While the data below shows a fluctuation in the Glades Region cancer death rate, most recently, there was a decrease from 162.3 per 100,000 population in 2019 to 127.7 per 100,000 population in 2020.

Table 83: Cancer Deaths, Glades Region and Palm Beach County, 2016 - 2020

ZIP Code	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
Palm Beach County	3,368	3,182	3,237	3,211 (100%)	3,232 (100%)
33430 - Belle Glade	28	24	24	39	27
33438 - Canal Point	1	4	0	2	2
33476 - Pahokee	20	12	17	14	11
33493 - South Bay	4	6	6	6	8
Total	53	46	47	61	48
HP2030: Cancer Death Rate Per 100,000 Population	149.2	126.0	126.9	162.3	127.7*

*Rate calculated with latest available total population from the US Census American Community Survey 2019 5-Year Estimate
Source: Florida Health CHARTS, Bureau of Vital Statistics, 2021
Compiled by: Health Council of Southeast Florida

[129] Reduce the overall cancer death rate — C-01 (n.d.). In Healthy People 2030. Retrieved from https://health.gov/healthypeople/objectives-and-data/browse-objectives/cancer/reduce-overall-cancer-death-rate-c-01

Unintentional Injury Deaths

Unintentional Injury Deaths

The table below shows the number of unintentional injury deaths in the Glades Region and Palm Beach County from 2016 to 2020. Unintentional injuries include, but are not limited to, motor vehicle crashes, other land transport accidents, water/air/space transport accidents, falls, firearms discharge, drowning, smoke, fire and flame exposure, poisoning, and noxious substance exposure.[130]

The Healthy People 2030 national target is to reduce unintentional injury deaths to 43.2 per 100,000 population.[131] The Glades Region had not met this target in 2020, with an unintentional injury death rate of 55.9 per 100,000 population.

Table 84: Unintentional Injury Deaths, Glades Region and Palm Beach County, 2016 - 2020

ZIP Code	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
Palm Beach County	998	1,098	913	1,013	1,157 (100%)
33430 - Belle Glade	8	8	14	9	15
33438 - Canal Point	0	3	1	0	1
33476 - Pahokee	4	7	5	7	4
33493 - South Bay	2	1	2	4	1
Total	14	19	22	20	21
HP2030: Unintentional Injury Death Rate per 100,000 Population	39.4	52.1	59.4	53.2	55.9*

*Rate calculated with latest available total population from the US Census American Community Survey 2019 5-Year Estimate
Source: Florida Health CHARTS, Bureau of Vital Statistics, 2021
Compiled by: Health Council of Southeast Florida

[130] Florida Health Charts. (2021). *Data Dictionary*. Retrieved from https://www.flhealthcharts.com/FLQUERY_New/Documents/DeathQ_Data_Dictionary.pdf
[131] Reduce unintentional injury deaths — IVP-03 (n.d.). In Healthy People 2030. Retrieved from https://health.gov/healthypeople/objectives-and-data/browse-objectives/injury-prevention/reduce-unintentional-injury-deaths-ivp-03

Homicide Deaths

Homicide Deaths

The table below shows the number of homicide deaths in the Glades Region and Palm Beach County from 2016 to 2020. The number of homicide deaths among Belle Glade residents increased from 2019 (4) to 2020 (8). In Pahokee, the number of deaths decreased from 2018 (4) to 2019 (1) and remained consistent in 2020 (1).

The Healthy People 2030 national target is to reduce homicides to 5.5 per 100,000.[132] The data below shows that there was a steady decrease in the homicide death rate for the Glades Region from 2016 to 2019, and a sharp increase to 26.6 per 100,000 population in 2020.

Table 85: Homicide Deaths, Glades Region and Palm Beach County, 2016 - 2020

ZIP Code	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
Palm Beach County	89	102	95	98	90
33430 - Belle Glade	11	6	1	4	8
33438 - Canal Point	0	1	0	0	0
33476 - Pahokee	2	1	4	1	1
33493 - South Bay	0	2	1	1	1
Total	13	10	6	6	10
HP2030: Homicide Death Rate per 100,000 Population	36.6	27.4	16.2	16.0	26.6*

*Rate calculated with latest available total population from the US Census American Community Survey 2019 5-Year Estimate
Source: Florida Health CHARTS, Bureau of Vital Statistics, 2021
Compiled by: Health Council of Southeast Florida

[132] Reduce homicides — IVP-09 (n.d.). In Healthy People 2030. Retrieved from https://health.gov/healthypeople/objectives-and-data/browse-objectives/violence-prevention/reduce-homicides-ivp-09

Cerebrovascular Deaths

Cerebrovascular Deaths

The following table shows the number of cerebrovascular deaths in the Glades Region and Palm Beach County from 2016 to 2020. Every year during this timeframe, Belle Glade had the highest number of deaths among residents. From 2019 to 2020, the number of deaths decreased among Belle Glade residents from 13 to 8 and among Pahokee residents from 4 to 2. There were 0 deaths among Canal Point residents and 3 deaths among South Bay residents most recently in 2020.

There is no Healthy People 2030 national target directly associated with cerebrovascular deaths, but there is a national target to reduce deaths from stroke, which is a common cerebrovascular disease, to 33.4 per 100,000 population.[133] While the data below shows the cerebrovascular death rate and not the stroke death rate, the rate has fluctuated but demonstrates overall improvement from 50.7 per 100,000 population in 2016 to 34.6 per 100,000 population in 2020.

Table 86: Cerebrovascular Deaths, Glades Region and Palm Beach County, 2016 - 2020

ZIP Code	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
Palm Beach County	1,045	1,134	1,130	1,172	1,279
33430 - Belle Glade	10	6	6	13	8
33438 - Canal Point	0	0	1	0	0
33476 - Pahokee	6	3	2	4	2
33493 - South Bay	2	5	2	3	3
Total	18	14	11	20	13
HP2030: Cerebrovascular Deaths per 100,000 Population	50.7	38.4	29.7	53.2	34.6*

*Rate calculated with latest available total population from the US Census American Community Survey 2019 5-Year Estimate
Source: Florida Health CHARTS, Bureau of Vital Statistics, 2021
Compiled by: Health Council of Southeast Florida

[133] US Department of Health and Human Services. Healthy People 2030: Reduce stroke deaths – HDS-03. https://health.gov/healthypeople/objectives-and-data/browse-objectives/heart-disease-and-stroke/reduce-stroke-deaths-hds-03

Health Resource Availability and Access

The ability to access to timely, quality health care services is considered a social determinant of health and indicator of wellbeing in communities. Unfortunately, many people do not get the services they need due to the availability, or lack thereof, of health care resources in a certain area.

According to the United States Census, approximately 1 in 10 individuals did not have health insurance coverage in 2020.[134] People without health insurance are less likely to have a primary care provider, resulting in delayed care, less preventative health screenings, and, ultimately, worse health outcomes. Specialty healthcare services may be inaccessible due to lack of transportation and the necessary medication critical for treatment may be unaffordable, further exacerbating issues.[135] These situations can lead people to utilize the emergency department as a primary source of care, driving up healthcare costs and unnecessarily filling beds, creating a strain on the healthcare system.

This section explores the availability of health resources and associated factors in the Glades Region, ZIP codes 33430, 33438, 33476, 33493, to assess residents' ability to access healthcare and identify any gaps or barriers that exist. Inequities in healthcare access can lead to disparities in health outcomes, so it is important to understand these factors related to Glades Region residents specifically. Included in this section is data on the following indicators: hospital utilization, Federal Health Professional Shortage Areas (HPSAs), Federal Medically Underserved Areas/Populations (MUA/Ps), and health insurance.

[134] United States Census Bureau. (2021). *Health Insurance Coverage in the United States: 2020.* Retrieved from https://www.census.gov/content/dam/Census/library/publications/2021/demo/p60-274.pdf
[135] Healthy People 2030. (n.d.) *Health Care Access and Quality.* Retrieved from https://health.gov/healthypeople/objectives-and-data/browse-objectives/health-care-access-and-quality

Hospital Utilization

Emergency Department Utilization

Between 2005 and 2016, rural emergency department visits increased by over 50%, while urban emergency department visits stayed relatively stable.[136] This growth was largely fueled by increased visits by those ages 18 to 64, non-Hispanic white patients, Medicaid beneficiaries, and patients without insurance. Additionally, more hospitals in rural settings are acting as safety-net hospitals, or hospitals that serve patients regardless of their ability to pay, a trend that is increasing pressure on rural emergency departments.

Hospital Emergency Department Utilization Among Glades Region Residents, January-December 2020

The table below shows the total number of visits among Glades Region residents by ZIP code. The data below includes visits by Glades Region residents who sought care in an emergency department setting, regardless of the facility location, as Glades residents may travel outside of the region to seek care. In 2020, 11,669 emergency department visits occurred among Belle Glade residents, 237 among Canal Point residents, 4,167 among Pahokee residents, and 2,191 among South Bay residents.

Table 93: Hospital Emergency Department Utilization, Glades Region Residents, January – December 2020

Patient ZIP Code	Visits	Percent of Total
33430 – Belle Glade	11,669	63.9%
33438 – Canal Point	237	1.3%
33476 – Pahokee	4,167	22.8%
33493 – South Bay	2,191	12.0%
Total	18,264	100%

Source: Florida Agency for Healthcare Administration (AHCA), 2020
Compiled by: Health Council of Southeast Florida, 2021

[136] Greenwood-Ericksen MB, Kocher K. (2019). Trends in Emergency Department Use by Rural and Urban Populations in the United States. *JAMA Netw Open. 2*(4). https://doi:10.1001/jamanetworkopen.2019.1919

Emergency Department Utilization Top Ten Principal Diagnosis

There were 130 million emergency department visits in the United States in 2018, with 12.4% of those visits (16.2 million) requiring hospital admission.[137] Of those visits, 16.2 million required hospital admission, and 2.3 million required critical care.

The table below shows the hospital emergency department top ten principal diagnosis groupings among Glades Region residents who sought care in an emergency department setting in 2020. "Acute upper respiratory infection, unspecified" (3.7%) was the most common diagnosis grouping in 2020, with "Chest pain, unspecified" (2.8%) and "Hypertensive chronic kidney disease with stage 5 chronic kidney disease or end stage renal disease" (2.8%) as the second and third most common grouping.

Table 87: Hospital Emergency Department Top Ten Principal Diagnosis Groupings, Glades ZIP Codes, 2020

Principal Diagnosis Groupings	Visits	Percent of Total
Acute Upper Respiratory Infection, unspecified	671	3.7%
Chest pain, unspecified	511	2.8%
Hypertensive chronic kidney disease with stage 5 chronic kidney disease or end stage renal disease	507	2.8%
Urinary tract infection, unspecified	381	2.1%
Influenza due to identified novel influenza A virus with other respiratory manifestations	310	1.7%
COVID-19	303	1.7%
Low Back Pain	247	1.4%
Viral infection, unspecified	233	1.2%
Acute pharyngitis, unspecified	225	1.2%
Headache	216	1.2%
All Other Diagnoses	14,660	80.3%
Total – All Principal Diagnoses	18,264	100%

Source: Florida Health Finder, ACHA Emergency Department Data, 2020
ICD Codes: F10-F69, F90-F99
Compiled by: Health Council of Southeast Florida, 2021

[137] Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. (2021). *Emergency Department Visits.* Retrieved from https://www.cdc.gov/nchs/fastats/emergency-department.htm

Hospital Emergency Department Utilization, Lakeside Medical Center, January-December 2020

The table below shows the total number of visits in hospital emergency departments in the Glades Region and for all Palm Beach County Hospitals from January to December 2020. Lakeside Medical Center is the only emergency department in the Glades Region, accounting for 16,721 (3.4%) of emergency department visits during this time frame.

Healthy People 2030 has not identified a national target for emergency department utilization for all causes.

Table 88: Hospital Emergency Department Utilization, Lakeside Medical Center, January-December 2020

Facility Name	Visits	Percent of Total
Lakeside Medical Center	16,721	3.4%
Total for Palm Beach County Hospitals	488,851	100%

Source: Health Council of Southeast Florida Hospital Utilization Reports, 2020
Compiled by: Health Council of Southeast Florida, 2021

Federal Health Professional Shortage Areas (HPSAs)

Health Professional Shortage Areas, or HPSAs, are geographic areas, populations or facilities that have a shortage of primary, dental, or mental health care provides. HPSAs are designated by the Health Resources Services Administration (HRSA) and are therefore eligible to receive certain federal resources with the goal of improving access to health care services in under-resourced communities.[138]

Each HPSA receives a score based on certain common criteria, including the population-to-provider ratio, percent of population below 100% of the Federal Poverty Level (FPL), and travel time to the nearest source of care outside of the HPSA designation area. Additional criteria are used for HPSA scoring for each of the primary care, dental, and mental health areas. Scores can range from 0 to 25 for Primary Care and Mental Health, and from 0 to 26 for Dental Health. The greater the score, the greater the need.[139]

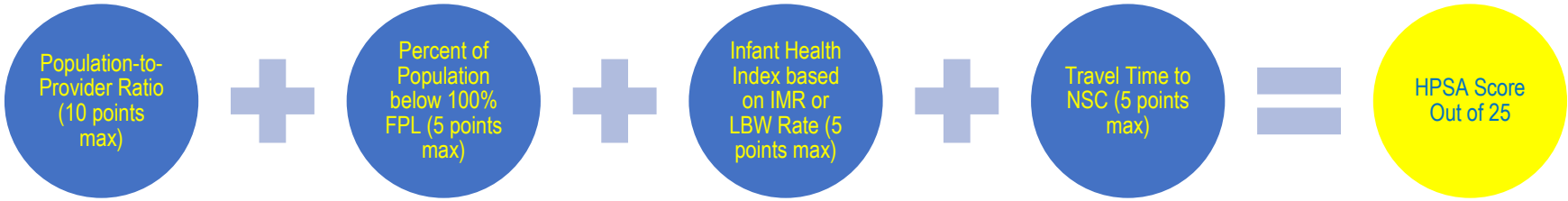
Looking at the tables, the HPSA FTE Short refers to the number of full-time equivalent (FTE) practitioners needed to achieve the population to practitioner target ratio in that HPSA.[140]

[138] Health Resources and Services Administration. (2021). *Shortage Areas*. Retrieved from https://data.hrsa.gov/topics/health-workforce/shortage-areas
[139] Health Resources and Services Administration. (202). *Scoring Shortage Designations.* Retrieved from https://bhw.hrsa.gov/workforce-shortage-areas/shortage-designation/scoring
[140] Health Resources and Services Administration. (n.d.) *HPSA Find.* Retrieved from https://data.hrsa.gov/tools/shortage-area/hpsa-find

Primary Care Health Professional Shortage Areas

As previously mentioned, Primary Care areas can receive a score between 0 and 25. This figure shows the Primary Care HPSA scoring process.

Figure 16: Primary Care HPSA Scoring



Source: Health Resources and Services Administration, Scoring Shortage Designations, 2021

The table below shows the Primary Care Health Professional Shortage Areas (HPSAs) in the Glades Region as of October 2021. The Low-Income Migrant Farmworker Population HPSA of Belle Glade/Pahokee had a HPSA score of 15 and a HPSA FTE Short score of 4.942. Additionally, this area was the only rural-designated HPSA in Palm Beach County.

Table 89: Primary Care Health Professional Shortage Areas, Glades Region, As of October 2021

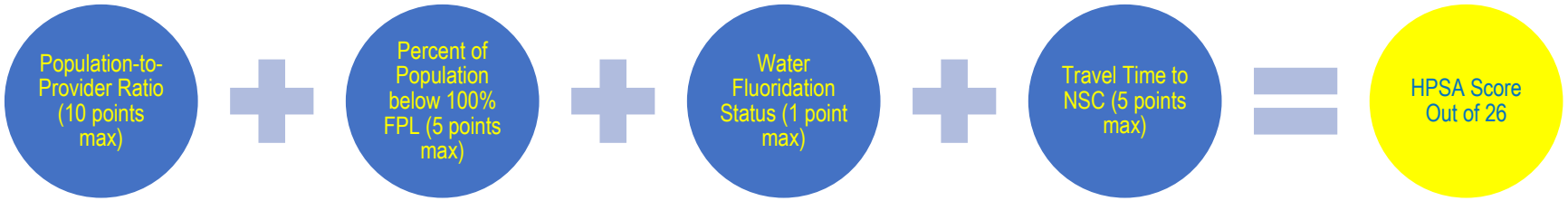
HPSA Name	Designation Type	HPSA FTE Short	HPSA Score	Rural Status
Belle Glade/Pahokee	Low Income Migrant Farmworker Population HPSA	4.942	15	Rural

Source: U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Health Resources and Service Administration, 2021
Compiled by: Health Council of Southeast Florida, 2021

Dental Care Health Professional Shortage Area

As previously noted, Dental HPSAs can receive a HPSA score between 0 and 26. The following table shows the Dental HPSA scoring process.

Figure 17: Dental HPSA Scoring



Source: Health Resources and Services Administration, Scoring Shortage Designations, 2021

This table shows the Dental Health Professional Shortage Areas (HPSAs) in the Glades Region as of October 2021. The Low-Income Population HPSA of Belle Glade had a HPSA Score of 23 and a HPSA FTE Short score of 4.11.

Table 90: Dental Health Professional Shortage Areas, Glades Region, As of October 2021

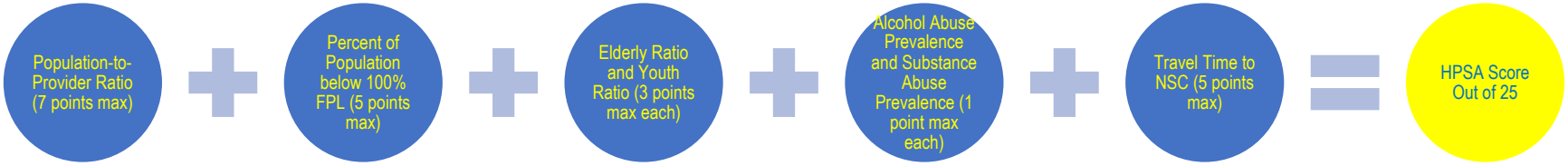
HPSA Name	Designation Type	HPSA FTE Short	HPSA Score	Rural Status
Belle Glade	Low Income Population HPSA	4.11	23	Rural

Source: U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Health Resources and Service Administration, 2021
Compiled by: Health Council of Southeast Florida, 2021

Mental Health Care Professional Shortage Area

As previously mentioned, Mental Health HPSAs can have a score between 0 and 25. Below is a figure showing the score process for Mental HPSAs.

Figure 18: Mental Health HPSA Scoring



Source: Health Resources and Services Administration, Scoring Shortage Designations, 2021

The following table shows the Mental Health Professional Shortage Areas in the Glades Region as of October 2021. The High Needs Geographic HPSA of Belle Glade/Pahokee had a HPSA score of 18 and a HPSA FTE Short score of 2.15. This designation had a rural status of 'partially rural'.

Table 91: Mental Health Professional Shortage Areas, Glades Region, As of October 2021

HPSA Name	Designation Type	HPSA FTE Short	HPSA Score	Rural Status
Belle Glade/Pahokee	High Needs Geographic HPSA	2.15	18	Partially Rural

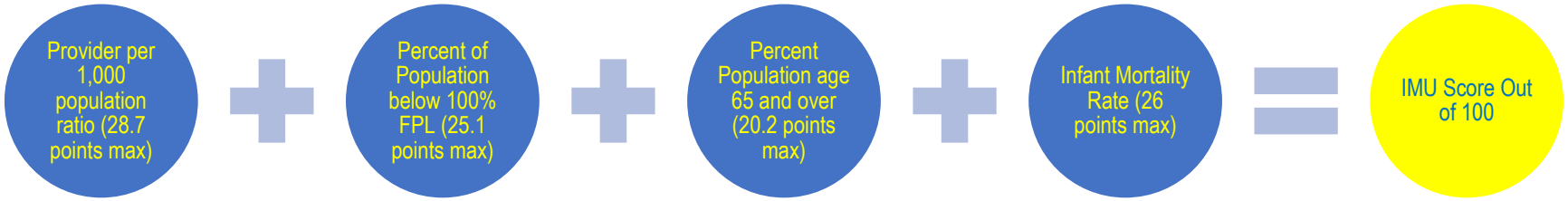
Source: U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Health Resources and Service Administration, 2021
Compiled by: Health Council of Southeast Florida, 2021

Federal Medically Underserved Areas/Populations (MUA/Ps)

Federal Medically Underserved Areas/Populations (MUA/P) designate areas and populations with a lack of access to primary care services and are used to help establish health maintenance organizations or community health centers. MUAs have a shortage of primary care services within a geographic area, including a county, group of counties, or urban census tracts. MUPs have a shortage for a specific population subset facing barriers to health care access within a geographic area, including people who are experiencing homelessness or migrant farm workers.[141] HPSAs are designated by the Health Resources Services Administration (HRSA) and are therefore eligible to receive certain federal resources with the goal of improving access to health care services in under-resourced communities.[142]

Each MUA/P receives an Index of Medical Underservice (IMU) score calculated for the designated area or population. An area or population with an IMU score of 62.0 or below can be classified as a MUA/P, and scores can be between 0 and 100. The following figure shows the score process for MUA/Ps.

Figure 19: MUA/P Scoring



Source: Health Resources and Services Administration, Scoring Shortage Designations, 2021

This table below shows the Medically Underserved Areas and Populations (MUA/Ps) in the Glades Region as of October 2021. The Low Inc/ M F W – Belle Glade/Pahokee area had an IMUS score of 53.6. Additionally, this area is designated as rural.

Table 92: Medically Underserved Populations and Areas, Glades Region, As of October 2021

Service Area Name	MUA/P ID	Index of Medical Underservice Score	Rural Status	Designation Date
Low Inc/ M F W - Belle Glade/ Pahokee	07531	53.6	Rural	05/11/1994

Source: U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Health Resources and Service Administration, 2021
Compiled by: Health Council of Southeast Florida, 2021

[141] What is Shortage Designation? (2021, February). In HRSA Health Workforce. Retrieved from https://bhw.hrsa.gov/workforce-shortage-areas/shortage-designation
[142] Health Resources and Services Administration. 92021). *Shortage Areas*. Retrieved from https://data.hrsa.gov/topics/health-workforce/shortage-areas

Health Insurance

Previous research suggests that having health insurance is a key determinant of being able to access routine, preventative, and comprehensive healthcare, which ultimately impacts health outcomes and risk of mortality.[143] A number of the leading causes of disability and disease can be prevented through early detection, which makes increasing health insurance coverage very important. While health insurance is only one factor mediating access to healthcare, it is foundational for improving quality of life and achieving health equity.

It is important to note that the data presented below include pre-COVID-19 pandemic figures and that COVID-19 is likely to have resulted in a decrease in health coverage. Due to the loss of jobs and benefits, health coverage was disrupted across the nation with the decline in employer-sponsored insurance.[144] As more data becomes available for 2020 and 2021, we will be able to assess the actual impact of the pandemic on health insurance coverage in the Glades Region.

[143] Office of Disease Prevention and Health Promotion. (2021). *Access to health services.* Retrieved from https://www.healthypeople.gov/2020/topics-objectives/topic/social-determinants-health/interventions-resources/access-to-health

[144] McDermott, D., Cox, C., Rudowitz, R., & Garfield, R. (2020). How has the pandemic affected health coverage in the U.S.? Kaiser Family Foundation. Retrieved from https://www.kff.org/policy-watch/how-has-the-pandemic-affected-health-coverage-in-the-u-s/

Uninsured

Uninsured by Age and Sex

This table below shows the percent of individuals uninsured by age and sex in the Glades Region in 2019. South Bay had the highest proportion of uninsured individuals under 19 years of age with 17.8% uninsured. Belle Glade had the highest proportion of uninsured individuals ages 19 to 25 (38.6%) and 19 to 64 (35.7%) years of age. Pahokee had the highest proportion of uninsured individuals ages 65 and older with 9.1% uninsured.

The proportion of uninsured males in Belle Glade (23.8%), Pahokee (20.2%), and South Bay (25.9%) was higher than that of females. Belle Glade had the highest proportion of uninsured females across all areas, with 22.3% of females uninsured. As previously mentioned, these are pre-pandemic figures and with widespread job loss and economic challenges during the pandemic, there has been a likely impact on health insurance coverage.

Table 93: Uninsured by Age and Sex, Glades Region and Palm Beach County, 2019

	Palm Beach County		Belle Glade (33430)		Canal Point (33438)		Pahokee (33476)		South Bay (33493)	
	Total	Percent Uninsured	Total	Percent Uninsured	Total	Percent Uninsured	Total	Percent Uninsured	Total	Percent Uninsured
Civilian noninstitutionalized population	1,451,973	13.0%	22,536	23.0%	367	7.6%	8,079	18.9%	1,673	24.4%
Age										
Under 19 years	298,678	8.2%	6,852	7.7%	29	0.0%	2,400	9.0%	456	17.8%
19 to 64 years	812,011	19.7%	12,744	35.7%	241	11.6%	4,832	25.5%	987	32.5%
65 years and older	341,284	1.3%	2,940	3.8%	97	0.0%	847	9.1%	230	3.0%
19 to 25 years	113,286	23.7%	2,212	38.6%	56	0.0%	1,017	35.1%	182	37.4%
Sex										
Male	701,016	14.6%	11,024	23.8%	185	0.0%	4,450	20.2%	839	25.9%
Female	750,957	11.6%	11,512	22.3%	182	15.4%	3,629	17.2%	834	23.0%

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey (ACS), 2019
Compiled by: Health Council of Southeast Florida, 2021

Uninsured by Race and Ethnicity

The table below shows the percent of uninsured individuals by race and ethnicity in the Glades Region in 2019. South Bay had the largest proportion of uninsured White (29.4%) and Black or African American (24.6%) individuals. In Belle Glade, 90.9% of Asian individuals were uninsured. In Canal Point, 100% of individuals who identify as some other race were uninsured.

When looking at ethnicity, across both the county and the Glades Region, a higher proportion of Hispanic residents were uninsured compared to White non-Hispanic residents. Pahokee had the largest proportion of Hispanic or Latino (30.4%) uninsured individuals and Belle Glade had the largest proportion of White non-Hispanic (23.5%) uninsured individuals. As previously mentioned, these are pre-pandemic figures and we know that the pandemic has resulted in a loss of health insurance coverage, potentially further exacerbating these disparities.

Table 94: Uninsured by Race and Ethnicity, Glades Region, 2019

	Palm Beach County		Belle Glade (33430)		Canal Point (33438)		Pahokee (33476)		South Bay (33493)	
	Total	Percent Uninsured	Total	Percent Uninsured	Total	Percent Uninsured	Total	Percent Uninsured	Total	Percent Uninsured
Civilian noninstitutionalized population	1,451,973	13.0%	22,536	23.0%	367	7.6%	8,079	18.9%	1,673	24.4%
Race										
White alone	1,069,522	11.3%	8,467	26.9%	275	6.9%	2,149	21.4%	453	29.4%
Black or African American alone	268,756	17.2%	12,982	20.4%	39	0.0%	5,407	15.4%	1,120	24.6%
American Indian and Alaska Native alone	3,039	41.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%
Asian alone	39,371	12.0%	110	90.9%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	47	0.0%
Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander alone	527	52.4%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%
Some other race alone	37,407	32.5%	655	20.0%	9	100.0%	484	47.9%	49	0.0%
Two or more races	33,351	12.5%	322	8.4%	44	0.0%	39	5.1%	4	0.0%

Ethnicity										
Hispanic or Latino (of any race)	325,889	24.1%	7,681	26.5%	201	13.9%	1,833	30.4%	448	28.6%
White alone, not Hispanic or Latino	793,335	7.1%	1,692	23.5%	110	0.0%	855	15.7%	52	9.6%

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey (ACS), 2019

Compiled by: Health Council of Southeast Florida, 2021

Health Insurance Coverage for Individuals with Disabilities

Health Insurance Coverage for Individuals with Disabilities, by Age

The table below shows the health insurance coverage status for individuals with disabilities in the Glades Region and Palm Beach County in 2019. Pahokee (5.4%) and Belle Glade (3.6%) had the largest proportions of individuals under 19 years of age with a disability. All individuals in this age group with a disability in Pahokee were covered by health insurance, while only 88.0% were covered in Belle Glade. Canal Point (16.2%) and Pahokee (16.0%) had the largest proportion of individuals ages 19 to 64 with a disability. All disabled individuals in this age group in Canal Point were covered by health insurance. However, only 80.5% of disabled individuals in Pahokee were covered by health insurance, which was the lowest proportion across all areas. Pahokee had the largest proportion of individuals ages 65 and over with a disability (46.8%), and the lowest proportion of disabled individuals in this age group covered by health insurance (85.4%). . As previously mentioned, these are pre-pandemic figures and we know that the pandemic has resulted in a loss of health insurance coverage, potentially further exacerbating these disparities.

Table 95: Health Insurance Coverage for Individuals with Disabilities, By Age, Glades Region and Palm Beach County, 2019

	Palm Beach County		Belle Glade (33430)		Canal Point (33438)		Pahokee (33476)		South Bay (33493)	
	Count	Percent	Count	Percent	Count	Percent	Count	Percent	Count	Percent
Total Civilian Population	1,451,973	100.0%	22,536	100.0%	367	100.0%	8,079	100.0%	1,673	100.0%
Under 19 years	298,678	20.6%	6,852	30.4%	29	7.9%	2,400	29.7%	456	27.3%
With a disability	10,080	3.4%	250	3.6%	0	0.0%	129	5.4%	7	1.5%
With health insurance coverage	9,439	93.6%	220	88.0%	0	0.0%	129	100.0%	7	100.0%
No health insurance coverage	641	6.4%	30	12.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%
19 to 64 years	812,011	55.9%	12,744	56.5%	241	65.7%	4,832	59.8%	987	59.0%
With a disability	64,149	7.9%	1,567	12.3%	39	16.2%	771	16.0%	62	6.3%
With health insurance coverage	53,923	84.1%	1,315	83.9%	39	100.0%	621	80.5%	54	87.1%
No health insurance coverage	10,226	15.9%	252	16.1%	0	0.0%	150	19.5%	8	12.9%
65 years and over	341,284	23.5%	2,940	13.0%	97	26.4%	847	10.5%	230	13.7%
With a disability	104,077	30.5%	1,141	38.8%	0	0.0%	396	46.8%	84	36.5%
With health insurance coverage	103,022	99.0%	1,129	98.9%	0	0.0%	338	85.4%	77	91.7%
No health insurance coverage	1,055	1.0%	12	1.1%	0	0.0%	58	14.6%	7	8.3%

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey (ACS), 2019; Compiled by: Health Council of Southeast Florida, 2021

Community Perspective

Community Focus Groups

Introduction

In December 2021 and January 2022, the Health Council of Southeast Florida conducted focus groups among Glades Region and Palm Beach County-wide residents to understand their opinions, beliefs, and experiences related to health in their communities. Focus groups were completed with a discussion-based format, and qualitative data was collected and analyzed. There were seven total focus groups with comments and discussion from Glades Region residents. A total of 59 participants residing in ZIP codes 33430, 33438, 33476, and 33493 were included in the analysis.

Methodology

Seventeen Palm Beach County-wide focus groups were conducted from December 2021 to January 2022, seven of which contained Glades Region residents from ZIP codes 33430, 33438, 33476, and 33493. Upon registration, participants were asked various demographic questions. Focus group sessions lasted 90-minutes and consisted of an introduction to the community health assessment process, instructions, and goals for the session. Participants were then asked a series of discussion questions and probes used to facilitate conversation and gain insight into their opinions, beliefs, and experiences related to health in their communities. All sessions were held virtually over Zoom and included a call-in number. One of the seven focus group sessions containing Glades Region residents was held in Creole, while the rest were held in English. Quotes used in this report have been de-identified. Additionally, participants were each given a $25 gift certificate as a token of appreciation for their engagement in a focus group session. These gift certificates,were distributed by email or mail.

Participant Demographics

The following analysis covers demographic responses and common themes expressed by participants from across all focus group sessions:

Table 96: Focus Group Participant Sex

Sex	Count	Percent of Participants
Male	33	55.9%
Female	26	44.1%
Total	**59**	**100%**

Table 97: Focus Group Participant Age

Age	Count	Percent of Participants
18-19 years	0	0%
20-24 years	8	13.6%
25-34 years	20	33.9%
35-44 years	15	25.4%
45-54 years	2	3.4%
55-59 years	3	5.1%
60-64 years	2	3.4%
65-74 years	2	3.4%
75-84 years	7	11.9%
85+ years	0	0%
Total	**59**	**100%**

Table 98: Focus Group Participant Race

Race	Count	Percent of Participants
American Indian, Alaskan Native, or Indigenous	3	5.1%
Asian	2	3.4%
Black or African American	33	55.9%
Native Hawaiian or other Pacific Islander	0	0%
White/Caucasian	14	23.7%
Two or more races	5	8.5%
Other	2	3.4%
Total	**59**	**100%**

Table 99: Focus Group Participant Ethnicity

Ethnicity	Count	Percent of Participants
Hispanic or Latino	12	20.3%
Non-Hispanic or Non-Latino	47	79.7%
Total	**59**	**100%**

Table 100: Focus Group Participant Level of Educational Attainment

Highest Level of Educational Attainment	Count	Percent of Participants
Associate Degree	9	15.3%
Bachelor's Degree	15	25.4%
Doctorate	2	3.4%
High School diploma or equivalent	7	11.9%
Less than a High School diploma	4	6.8%
Master's Degree	13	22.0%
Some college, no degree	7	11.9%
Technical School	2	3.4%
Total	**59**	**100%**

Table 101: Focus Group Participant Annual Household Income

Annual Household Income	Count	Percent of Participants
Less than $10,000	4	6.8%
$10,000 to $14,999	7	11.9%
$15,000 to $24,999	13	22.0%
$25,000 to $34,999	3	5.1%
$35,000 to $49,999	6	10.2%
$50,000 to $74,999	6	10.2%
$75,000 to $99,999	2	3.4%
$100,000 to $149,999	0	0%
$150,000 to $199,999	10	16.9%
$200,000 or more	3	5.1%
I prefer not to answer	0	0%
Total	**59**	**100%**

Table 102: Focus Group Participant Current Employment Status

Current Employment Status	Count	Percent of Participants
Full-time employed	27	45.8%
Homemaker	1	1.7%
Part-time employed	5	8.5%
Retired	9	15.3%
Self-employed	6	10.2%
Student	6	10.2%
Unable to work	3	5.1%
Unemployed and currently looking for work	1	1.7%
Unemployed and not currently looking for work	1	1.7%
Working two or more jobs	0	0%
Total	**59**	**100%**

Table 103: Focus Group Participant Health Insurance Status

Health Insurance Status	Count	Percent of Participants
Cash/I don't have insurance	6	10.2%
Medicaid	24	40.7%
Medicare	22	37.3%
Military Care/VA/TRICARE	0	0%
Private insurance	5	8.5%
Other	1	1.7%
I prefer not to answer	1	1.7%
Total	**59**	**100%**

Table 104: Focus Group Participant ZIP Code

ZIP Code	Count	Percent of Participants
33430	22	37.3%
33438	4	6.8%
33476	11	18.6%
33493	22	37.3%
Total	**59**	**100%**

Table 105: Impressions of Health

Impressions of Health	
An individual's beliefs and understandings regarding health may influence their perception of health in their community and their actions towards health behaviors in everyday life. According to the Theory of Reasoned Action, an individual's action is most directly influenced by their behavioral intention. Determinants of such behavioral intentions include an individual's subjective norms and attitudes. Research shows that an individual's attitude is determined by their behavioral beliefs about the action, and their subjective norm is determined by their normative beliefs.[145] As such, it is critical to understand the community's beliefs and understandings related to health in community health assessment efforts. Participants were asked the following questions regarding their current impressions of health and healthy communities.	
Question	**Insights and Responses**
What does health mean to you?	Generally, residents in the Glades Region feel that health means being physically, mentally, and socially well. A number of residents also mentioned that health means being financially stable. Additionally, several participants emphasized the ability to be happy, demonstrating a broader view on health, beyond the absence of disease. Participants shared the following statements below, which are emblematic of the emergent themes. **Mental, Physical, & Social Wellbeing** • *"To me health is not just absence of illness but also wellbeing of my emotions, spirituality, etc."* • *"Being able to wake up every day and be happy and healthy."* • *"For me health is the general wellbeing of mental and physical state. Ability to do anything I want."* • *"Health means being stable financially, physically, socially and mentally."* • *"I personally believe health is wealth. Health is a complete state of physical, mental and social wellbeing. Not just the absence of illnesses and disability."*
When you hear the words "healthy community" what comes to mind?	Glades residents feel that a healthy community is a community with adequate access to health and social services, sanitary conditions, social cohesion, and financial stability. Another theme that emerged was the importance of civic engagement and there being a positive relationship between residents and the government, being able to effectively communicate community needs and receive proper government support. Several residents also specifically noted a healthy community is one where residents have access to "healthy homes." Participants shared the following statements below, which are emblematic of the emergent themes.

[145] Glanz, K., Rimer, B. K., Viswanath, K., Montano, D. E., & Kasprzyk, D. (2015). Chapter 6: Theory of Reasoned Action, Theory of Planner Behavior, and the Integrated Behavoiral Model. *Health Behavior: Theory, Research and Practice, 5,* 95-98. Jossey-Bass.

Access to Health & Social Services

- *"[A] health[y] community provide[s] favorable services with the assistance of government to the people."*
- *"Community with lots and availability of human resources, community strength, natural resources, good educational system and lack of communal crisis."*
- *"Is where by every person in the community has access to a good quality education, safe and healthy homes, adequate employment, transportation, good living standards, quality health care."*
- *"Community with access to basic healthcare and easy access to government funded programs."*

Sanitary Conditions

- *"A community where everyone can afford sanitary amenities like good water, transportation and good health services."*
- *"A community that has environmental cleanliness and the community has personal hygiene."*
- *"A community that has proper waste disposal."*

Financial Stability

- Financial stability was mentioned by residents both on its own and accompanied by other factors, for example, *"A healthy community is a group of people who are health[y] physically, mentally, financially and otherwise."*
- *"An environment where people are financially stable and the unemployment problem has been addressed."*

Social Cohesion

- *"Sense of community."*
- *"Good neighbors, good relationships."*

Civic Engagement

- *"Government and people have a relationship. The state of the community is healthy in the sense that they feel like the government cares what they have in mind."*
- *"Governed by local leaders. Spokesperson to communicate needs to the government."*

Table 106: Current Community Strengths

Current Community Strengths	
Community strengths identified by residents can provide insight into what community members perceive to be going well in their community, as well as what they currently value in their neighborhoods. Leaders may use this information to build on current strengths in their efforts to address gaps and opportunities for improvement. Participants answered the following questions about perceived strengths and associated influences on their community.	
Question	**Insights and Responses**
What are some of the strengths where you live that contribute to a healthy community?	Glades residents believe that affordable and accessible health and social services and a safe environment, specifically a secure home, are strengths that contribute to the health of their community. Specific health and social services mentioned as strengths were health care, health insurance, transportation, housing, education, and utilities. A few residents also mentioned the availability of food distribution services as a strength. Participants shared the following statements below, which are emblematic of the emergent themes. **Access to Health & Social Services** • *"The hospital is very important to us. They expanded to have space for people without insurance to go see a doctor. They also provide dental services in addition to traditional hospital services."* • *"If less cost health care services are rendered it would be of great benefit to the community."* • *"Preventive and primary care services, including; medical checkup, dental and chronic condition management."* **Affordable Health & Social Services** • *"Reduced health insurance fees."* • *"Affordable housing, water, electricity, and medical care."* • *"Low cost of transportation."* **Safe Environment & Secure Homes** • "Safe community, free of crime and violence." • "Equitable access to opportunities for physical, mental and spiritual well-being and development in a safe environment, especially for women and children."
How do these strengths help create a healthy community?	Two groups with residents from the Glades Region answered this question. Consistent with what residents think about when they hear "healthy community," a positive relationship with government leaders was most frequently mentioned as a strength that helps create a healthy community. Participants mentioned that this relationship could ensure adequate levels of support and services to address the community's needs.

Who or what influences what you do (or think) about your health?	With respect to how Glades residents think about health or engage in health-related behaviors, participants reported being highly influenced by their **healthcare providers** and **health organizations**. Participants also mentioned that their **families**, more specifically their **parents**, also strongly influence them. Additionally, several participants stated that an individual's **personality and genetic composition** influence health-related beliefs and behaviors.

Table 107: Opportunities for Improvement

Opportunities for Improvement	
Opportunities for improvement and barriers to health were explored by focus group participants. This information can provide insight into the current gaps in the local public health system, as well as the barriers that may influence those gaps. According to the Health Belief Model, perceived barriers play a critical role in an individual's behavior, and thus their health. As one of the most widely applied behavior theories in health behavior research, the Health Belief Model states that the intentional targeting of perceived barriers, benefits, self-efficacy, and threats will most effectively lead to optimal behavior change.[146] As such, it is important to understand resident's current perceived gaps and barriers to address health in the community. Participants were asked the following questions about opportunities for improvement in their community.	
Question	**Insights and Responses**
You just shared about some of the strengths in your community, but what opportunities exist for improving the health of your community?	Glades Region residents discussed many opportunities for improving the health of their communities, including the increase of quality and affordable healthcare services, the increase of accessible emergency and specialty care, addressing racism and discrimination, and the increase of access to mental health services, affordable housing, and youth recreation. Participants shared the following statements below, which are emblematic of the emergent themes. **Quality & Affordable Healthcare Services** • *"Making the health care facilities affordable and accessible to members of the community."* • *"Improve on services provided by healthcare personnel like doctors, and increase the number of hospitals to ensure they are available everywhere in the community."* • *"There are not enough medical facilities to address the needs of patients."* **Access to Emergency & Specialty Healthcare Services** • *"Good and professional specialist[s] are not available in my community."* • *"Emergency services are really hard to get."* • *"My community lacks good urgent care centers for check-up and medical staff."* **Racism and Discrimination** • *"[The] health sector is ok, but it needs to be improved a little. Adjustments should be made. Preference is given to certain people in the health sectors based on race or skin color."* • *"We Blacks are discriminated [against] in my community."*

[146] Jones, C. L., Jensen, J. D., Scherr, C. L., Brown, N. R., Christy, K., & Weaver, J. (2015). The Health Belief Model as an explanatory framework in communication research: exploring parallel, serial, and moderated mediation. *Health communication*, *30*(6), 566–576. https://doi.org/10.1080/10410236.2013.873363

	Access to Mental Health Services • *"We don't have [adequate] behavioral specialists or mental health facilities or even counseling – [some services] require referrals and travel to West Palm Beach."* • *"People are going through different challenges that are affecting their mental health. So it needs be addressed."* **Affordable Housing** • *"More low-income housing."* • *"Making housing more affordable to everyone."* **Youth Recreation** • *"YMCA for the children so people are off the street. [This] prevents them from doing bad things."* • *"There are not enough recreational activities for youth in the community."*
What types of support do you believe residents need to overcome these barriers?	In order to overcome the previously noted barriers to good health, Glades Region residents largely reported that financial support and health education, including both general health and mental health topics, will help residents overcome them. Additionally, participants again mentioned that collaborating and sharing ideas with government leaders is an important mechanism for residents to receive the support they need to overcome health barriers. Participants shared the following statements below, which are emblematic of the emergent themes. **Financial Support** • *"I feel [the] government should provide financial support to persons as there have [been] losses of job[s] due to pandemic."* • *"It takes money but we don't have money."* • *"The government should subsidize healthcare services."* **Health Education & Outreach** • *"Public health classes should be organize[d] in the community and schools."* • *"Introduce mental health curriculums in school to increase awareness of mental health issues among students. A lot of students suffer from mental health issues, and I think it can be a disaster if not handled in time."* **Collaboration & Sharing Ideas** • *"Organizing sessions like this for community members to interact with the government officials."* • *"[We need] someone in the chair to listen to us; if we don't get anyone to listen to us and do the work [then] they're not the right person in the chair."*

How can residents and community organizations work together to improve the health of the county?	Glades Region residents believe collaborating and sharing ideas, along with community-based participatory research, can help residents and community organizations work together to improve the health of their communities. Participants specifically mentioned support groups, community meetings, and educational classes, and also suggested mechanisms for implementing a feedback loop for community members to voice their needs. One resident noted that *"communities should collaborate with government leaders to work on improving health for all residents."* Participants shared the additional statements below, which are emblematic of the emergent themes. **Collaboration & Sharing Ideas** • *"Work together and build partnership with government leaders to develop better healthcare centers."* • *"Meetings on the policy making process. They should inform residents in this way so they feel like they own the policies."* • *"Organizations could have a line that community members could call."* • *"Creating health groups with quarterly and monthly meetings with activities."* **Community Research** • *"Conducting a community health assessment."* • *"People can do community research and residents from the community can participate."*

Table 108: Highlighted Issues, Causes and Affected Populations

Highlighted Issues, Causes, and Affected Populations	
The goal of a community health assessment is to identify issues and health needs that can be strategically addressed to improve the health of a community.[147] As such, it is critical to understand residents' impressions of current issues, causes, and affected populations. This insight can help leaders understand the issues most important to community members at this time. Participants were asked the following questions about common issues, causes, and vulnerable populations in their community.	
Question	**Insights and Responses**
What are common health issues that you, your family or your community struggle with?	Common health issues that Glades residents reported that they, their families, and their community struggle with include: **respiratory conditions**, such as asthma, tuberculosis, and allergies; **mental health conditions**, such as attention deficit hyperactivity disorder, anxiety, depression, and stress; **behavioral health issues**, such as drug addiction and substance use; **poor health status**, such as having high proportion of overweight and obese residents; **chronic health conditions**, such as heart conditions, hypertension, stroke, diabetes, and cancer; **sexually transmitted infections**; and **conditions related to aging**, such as dementia, arthritis, and the worsening of ophthalmological health.
What do you believe causes the health issues you have described?	Glades residents stated that they believe that lifestyle habits, including smoking, drug abuse, dietary habits, poor hygiene, lack of physical activity, and delaying care, cause most of the issues previously mentioned. Residents also noted that the environment, such as air or water pollution, also contribute. Other contributing factors reported include stress caused by social issues and events, including socioeconomic factors and the presence of community trauma. Several residents also mentioned lack of quality and affordable health care and the government as causing these health issues. Participants shared the following sentiments below, which are emblematic of the emergent themes. **Lifestyle & Habits** • Smoking and drug use • Dietary habits, including *"high level of sugar consumption,"* processed food, and *"eating too much fast food that has lots of fats and cholesterol,"* that may cause overweight, obesity, or malnutrition • Poor hygiene and sedentary lifestyles • Delaying care. For example, one resident noted, *"Not going to get tested for health issues. For example, an emergency room diagnosed my uncle with cancer because he refused doctors' visits for so long."* **Environment** • Air and water pollution

[147] Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. (2018). *Public health professionals gateway: assessments and plans.* Retrieved from https://www.cdc.gov/publichealthgateway/cha/plan.html

	• *"Lack of awareness and centuries of mismanagement and deterioration of the environment by residents."* **Stress & Life Events** • Financial issues • Dealing with loss • Poverty and homelessness • Job loss/unemployment • Traumatic events **Lack of Quality & Affordable Health Care** • *"High cost of accessing medical services."* • *"Lack of and poor medical services."* **The Government** • *"The government and the citizens are responsible."* • *"The government is the primary factor."*
Who do you feel struggles the most with these health issues you have described? (i.e. – children, elderly, people of color)	Overall, Glades Region residents believe that the **elderly** and **youth** are affected by the previously mentioned health issues the most. It was noted that the elderly struggle specifically with high blood pressure and diabetes the most, while the youth struggle with drug use and allergies. A number of residents also mentioned that **everyone struggles** and it may depend on the health issue or *"on how one values his health."* **Black and African-American** residents were also mentioned as a particularly vulnerable demographic in the Glades.

Table 109: Healthcare and Health Education Touchpoints

Healthcare and Health Education Touchpoints	
Effectively reaching targeted populations is a critical component of influencing and addressing health issues in a community. Leaders must understand where residents go for health care and health information in order to impactfully reach these community members. The concept of understanding healthcare and health education touchpoints used by residents and patients, known as Health Information-Seeking Behavior, can impact health marketing and outreach efforts.[148] Participants were asked the following questions about where they currently seek health care and health information.	
Question	**Insights and Responses**
Where do you get health care?	Residents mentioned they seek health care at the following places: • Family or personal doctors • Hospital • Local health centers, health department clinics, or private health clinics • Clinics that accept Medicare and/or Medicaid • Urgent Care - *"I do use urgent care before going to the hospital, because my copay is high if I go to the hospital."* • Telehealth
In what cases do you use the emergency room?	Residents noted that they sought care from an emergency room when they were experiencing major health issues or were in **critical condition**, when they had been involved in an **accident**, when they needed **maternity care**, and for **after-hour care**, when their primary doctor's office is closed.
Where do you get most of your health information?	Glades Region residents reported that they primarily receive their health information from health care personnel, like a family doctor, and health organizations, like the local health department. Participants also stated they receive their health information from news outlets and social media, such as Twitter and Facebook, including specific pages like the World Health Organization and Medscape. Other online resources mentioned included sources such as Web M.D., the CDC, and government or hospital websites. A few residents mentioned they receive their health information from family and friends. Glades residents said they are satisfied with where they are getting health information. One resident noted that *"if I am not satisfied then I go to my doctor or do my own research."* Participants mentioned the specific sources listed below.

[148] Zimmerman, M. S. (2021). Health information-seeking behavior in the time of COVID-19: information horizons methodology to decipher source path during a global pandemic. *Journal of documentation, 77*(6). Retrieved from https://www.emerald.com/insight/content/doi/10.1108/JD-01-2021-0022/full/html

Are you satisfied or would you prefer someone else?	**Health Care Organizations & Personnel** • Family or personal doctor • Silver Sneakers • Community Health Workers • Health Department • Healthcare centers • Health agencies in the community • Health workshops **News & Media** • The news media. One resident asserted, *"The media gives me the quality information I need."* • Social media, including Facebook and Twitter • Organization pages on social media, such as the World Health Organization, Medscape, and news organizations **Other Online Resources** • Web M.D. • Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) • Government or hospital websites • Google searches

Table 110: Impact of COVID-19

Impact of COVID-19	
The COVID-19 pandemic has significantly influenced the way in which community members live, work, and play. Stay-at-home and safer-at-home orders have altered how residents attend work and school, as well as the ways in which they receive health care. Social isolation, economic hardship, limited medical capacity and virtual health care visits, and remote schooling have changed the dynamics in both families and communities and have oftentimes led to increased stress and uncertainty related to once-normal activities.[149] As such, the most recent data is beginning to show that COVID-19 has had a significant impact on other health indicators since 2020. Participants were asked the following questions regarding the impact of COVID-19 on their family and community, as well as the impact of COVID-19 on their ability to access health and social services.	
Question	**Insights and Responses**
How has COVID-19 affected you, your family and members of your community?	The recent COVID-19 pandemic has largely impacted residents in the Glades Region negatively. Many lost their jobs, causing financial hardship and loss of health care coverage. One resident explained they experienced financial hardship even though they didn't lose their job, because their wages were reduced while working from home. Many Glades Region residents also experienced negative impacts on their mental health, including anxiety, fear, worry, stress, depression, and loneliness. Many residents lost loved ones, one noting that they lost nine family members. Alternatively, one resident stated that they found the pandemic beneficial, because they had *"enough time to stay at home and work on my [personal] projects."* Participants shared the following statements below, which are emblematic of the emergent themes **Financial Hardship** • *"When I lost my job, it was a really hard time for me. I was sick and didn't have healthcare anymore."* **Mental Health** • Participants stressed the mental and emotional strain caused by the pandemic due to the social isolation, the fear of getting sick and not knowing what to trust, the financial and health impacts, and the loss of loved ones. Participants specifically mentioned depression, stress, loneliness, fear, worry, isolation, and anxiety. **Loss of Loved Ones** • *"I had about 9 die; [My] family is still stressing over the loss."*
How has COVID-19 affected access to health and social services in your community?	Glades Region residents explained that the COVID-19 caused health and social services to be less accessible than before the pandemic. They cited that elective procedures were cancelled, there were longer wait times, and they struggled to schedule appointments. Residents also noted that the cost of health care was high , which led to more

[149] The National Child Traumatic Stress Network. (2021). *The traumatic impact of COVID-19 on children and families: current perspectives from the NCTSN.* Retrieved from https://www.nctsn.org/print/2494

	financial hardship. Many residents also expressed that they feared seeking care, because they believed they may be infected at a health care facility. Participants shared the following statements below, which are emblematic of the emergent themes **Unable to Access Health & Social Services** • *"I remember elective procedures were cancelled and there were longer waits to get into doctors. Doctors were only seeing emergencies."* • *"It is a longer wait to get to the specialist or primary care doctor. My coworker was trying to get into primary care and they told her, 'We will see you in 3 months.'"* **Unable to Afford Health Care Services** • *"Due to medical emergency expenses, people are broke and can no longer afford what they need."* • *"The cost health care, for example, oxygen, has gone up compared to pre-COVID times."* **Fear of Being Infected** • Residents stated they feared going to health centers and hospitals, because they thought they might get COVID-19 from being there physically. • *"[I] stayed away from public services in order to avoid being infected."* • *"One can't move freely without the fear of being infected."*

Glades Region Focus Group Recruitment Flyer

Key Informant Interviews

The Health Council of Southeast Florida conducted interviews with key community stakeholders and members in 2022. The purpose was to collect first-hand information from a wide range of community leaders who have expertise about the Glades Region, its residents and its resources. The individuals selected for the interviews included leaders, representatives, or members of medically underserved, low-income and minority populations, as well as funders, members of law enforcement, and leaders of community organizations. Their expert knowledge and understanding provides insight on the nature of problems and recommendations for solutions and future planning.

Methodology

The Health Council of Southeast Florida (HCSEF) developed protocols, scripts and questions for key informant interviews. Interview appointments were scheduled and each interview was conducted by a trained facilitator via telephone. The interviews lasted on average 30-45 minutes. Prior to beginning the interview, the facilitator provided an overview of the process and assured the confidentiality of all comments, names and other identifying information during reporting.

Results

Key informant interviews were conducted throughout January 2022. A total of 15 questions were asked and probes were used to clarify information and glean additional insight. The following information are the common themes that emerged during the key informant interviews regarding the Glades Region and from stakeholders living in, serving, and representing the Glades communities.

Table 111: Key Informant Interview Results

Topic Area	Emergent Themes
Key Health Issues	• All key informants mentioned that the Glades Region residents struggle with chronic conditions, such as diabetes, high blood pressure, heart disease, obesity, and cancer • The majority of key informants also mentioned the impact of the lived environment, specifically: 1) the inability to live healthy lifestyles due to the lack of healthy food access and walkable green spaces; 2) respiratory issues; and 3) unclean water supplies; and 4) pest infestations due to the lack of investments made to updating some of the housing infrastructure • Many key informants mentioned the increased prevalence of behavioral health issues in the region, including trauma, anxiety, and depression; one key informant mentioned that the community has collectively experienced trauma and has become somewhat desensitized

	• Key informants also stated that the impact that economic disparities have on poorer health outcomes in the Glades Region, highlighting the importance of addressing the social determinants of health

Populations with Unmet Needs	• Key informants listed several populations in the Glades Region with unmet needs, including:
	  ○ Specific racial and ethnic groups: Black and African American residents, Haitian residents, and Hispanic residents
	  ○ Specific age groups and dynamics: the senior population, single parents, and children who are born in areas with less opportunity
	  ○ Individuals who face residential segregation and income inequality

Community Strengths and Assets	• Key informants noted various community strengths and assets within the Glades Region. Among the most commonly reported strengths and assets were:
	  ○ The resilience of Glades residents, who may experience hardships but have a strong will to move forward
	  ○ The strong presence of faith-based organizations and the social support they provide to the community members
	  ○ The Health Care District's provision of low-to-no cost services and will to invest in the community
	  ○ The School District and the recent push to develop newer schools, again highlighting an investment in the community
	  ○ There's been a recent introduction of self-care and mindfulness to the community and this has helped reduce stigma related to mental health

Challenges and Barriers in Maintaining Health	• Key informants listed several challenges and barriers that Glades Region residents face when trying to maintain their health. Among the most commonly reported challenges and barriers were:
	  ○ The lack of economic mobility and financial capital
	  ○ Environmental aspects, such as cane burning and the presence of food deserts
	  ○ Lack of transportation and convenient access to health care

	○ Lack of medical specialists who serve the community due to location and specific insurance coverages (i.e. many specialists only see children if they have Medicaid, not adults) ○ High cost associated with medical appointments, which results in residents seeking emergency care when a condition has worsened ○ The community doesn't have the time to prioritize health because they have to work long hours to earn a living wage – this results in limited exercise and the purchasing of fast foods
Opportunities to Note	• Key informants noted several opportunities for improving health in the Glades Region. Among the most reported opportunities were: ○ Adding more mental and behavioral health resources ○ Letting the community decide the services they need and how they want to receive them and building the capacity for community members to become leaders ○ There is a need to tap into resources to improve infrastructure in The Glades (e.g., housing, built environment) ○ There is only one hospital to cover four different communities and there are also not many medical specialists, so residents need to travel far to seek care ○ Need to engage more diverse groups, such as different faiths, cultures, and the LGBTQ community
Suggestions for Improvement	• In addition to the previously mentioned opportunities for improvement, key informants provided specific suggestions for how to improve the health of the Glades Region. Among the most commonly reported suggestions were: ○ Suggestions around increased community engagement and shared leadership. For instance, the majority of key informants mentioned there need to be more opportunities for residents to provide feedback and input, the community needs to be included in decision-making processes, and the need for the development of shared visions. One key informant stated, *"Too many times, funders prescribe services without asking the residents what they want."*

	○ Suggestions for building trust with communities through transparency, advocacy, partnerships, and action, as it happens often that residents provide feedback but don't see anything come from it. The general sentiment is *"talk is cheap, so show me."* • Other notable mentions, although not commonly reported, include the need for respite care programs for caregivers and the need for improving the mental health structure for increasing the types of providers who can provide important counseling services
COVID-19 Impact	• Key informants revealed that COVID-19 had a devastating impact on the Glades Region residents, in more ways than one. Impacts most commonly reported include: ○ The increased strain on families through the loss of family members and caregivers to COVID-19, resulting in both a disruption to family structures and dynamics. Several key informants mentioned that, in some families, children lost their parents to the pandemic ○ The lost social development opportunities among children whose education was disrupted ○ The economic impact of the pandemic, as many residents lost their jobs or experienced a significant reduction in income ○ The mental health impact, with residents experiencing pandemic-related anxiety and fatigue, leading to an increase in behavioral health issues ○ The loss of life, due to the fact that the Glades Region was more reactionary than preventative and it took more time to get the necessary resources than the rest of the county (i.e. masks, testing, vaccines) ○ The increased lack of trust and high levels of vaccine hesitancy. One key informant mentioned that residents remember the Tuskegee Experiment and do not trust the government, so more people are dying • When it came to discussing the impact of the pandemic on the local public health system, key informants stressed the huge burden placed on the already taxed health care system, the increase of unmet healthcare needs (i.e., important screenings, elective surgeries, prevention, and treatment)

	• One notable mention is that the Glades, in general, got hit the hardest by the pandemic. *"When Palm Beach County catches a cold, we catch the flu. When Palm Beach County experiences a storm, we have a hurricane. Everything affects us 10 times more."*

Conclusion

This report was a collaborative effort by community members and stakeholders with the goal of providing residents access to quality health and human services. This community health needs assessment will provide a better understanding of the health needs in the Glades Region and will help guide future planning efforts to improve the overall health and quality of life for all residents in Palm Beach County. The data collected and presented in this assessment will be a valuable tool for the residents and stakeholders of the Glades Region moving forward to create positive change and health outcomes among the varied populations.