



# Gulf County

## Community Health Assessment Report

As part of the Gulf County Community Health Improvement Project, the “Mobilizing for Action through Planning and Partnerships” (MAPP) process identified community health issues impacting Gulf County residents.

## Contributors

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## Disclaimer

While statistics and data for the indicators were, to the best of the author's knowledge, current as the Community Health Profile Report 2012 was drafted, there may be subsequent data and developments, including recent legislative actions, that could alter the information provided herein.

This report does not include statistical tests for significance and does not constitute medical advice. Individuals with health problems should consult an appropriate health care provider. This report does not constitute legal advice.

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## INTRODUCTION



This Community Health Assessment (CHA) provides a snapshot in time of the community strengths, needs, and priorities. Guided by the Mobilization for Action through Planning and Partnerships (MAPP) process, this report is the result of a collaborative and participatory approach to community health planning and improvement.

A Community Health Assessment is a collaborative process involving community partners to identify strengths, capacity, and opportunity to better address the many determinants of health. Improving the health of the community is critical to enhancing Gulf County residents' quality of life and supporting its future prosperity and well-being.

This Community Health Assessment serves to inform the Gulf County community decision making, the prioritization of health problems, and the development, implementation, and evaluation of community health improvement plans. The overarching goals of this report include:

- Examination of the current health status across Gulf County as compared to Florida
- Identification of the current health concerns among Gulf County residents within the social and economic context of their community
- Documentation of community strengths, resources, forces of change, and opportunities for health service provision to inform funding and programming priorities of Gulf County

Four broad focus areas were used in the CHA process:

1. Community Health Status Profile
2. Local Public Health System Assessment.
3. Forces of Change
4. Community Strengths and Themes

## DATA SOURCES

### **Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System (BRFSS)** <http://www.floridacharts.com/charts/brfss.aspx>

This state-based telephone surveillance system is designed to collect data on individual risk behaviors and preventive health practices related to the leading causes of morbidity and mortality.

### **Broward Regional Health Planning Council, Data Warehouse** <http://healthdata.brhpc.org/>

The Health Data Warehouse is tool that provides users with access to data sets, including AHCA's inpatient admissions and emergency department data, chronic diseases data, diagnostic related groupings, and prevention quality indicators for adults and children.

### **County Health Rankings** <http://www.countyhealthrankings.org/#app/florida/2012>

The County Health Rankings rate the health of nearly every county in the nation. The Robert Wood Johnson Foundation collaborates with the University of Wisconsin Population Health Institute to provide this database.

### **Florida Cancer Registry** [http://www.doh.state.fl.us/disease\\_ctrl/epi/cancer/Background.htm](http://www.doh.state.fl.us/disease_ctrl/epi/cancer/Background.htm)

The Florida Cancer Data System (FCDS) is Florida's legislatively mandated, population-based, statewide cancer registry. The FCDS is a joint project of the Florida Department of Health and the University of Miami Miller School of Medicine.

### **Florida CHARTS** <http://www.floridacharts.com>

The Florida Department of Health, Office of Statistics and Assessment maintains the Community Health Assessment Resource Tool Set (CHARTS) is commonly used to conduct community health assessments, prioritize health issues at the state and local level, and monitor changes in health indicators over time.

### **Florida HealthFinder, Florida Agency for Health Care Administration (AHCA)**

<http://www.floridahealthfinder.gov/QueryTool/Results.aspx>

The Inpatient Data Query provides performance and outcome data and information on selected medical conditions and procedures in Florida health care facilities.

### **Kids Count** <http://www.floridakidscount.org/>

Florida KIDS COUNT (FKC) is part of a Nationwide KIDS COUNT Network, a project of the Annie E. Casey Foundation . The KIDS COUNT Network is a national and state-by-state effort to track that status of children in the U.S.

### **United States Census Bureau** <http://quickfacts.census.gov/qfd/states/12000.html>

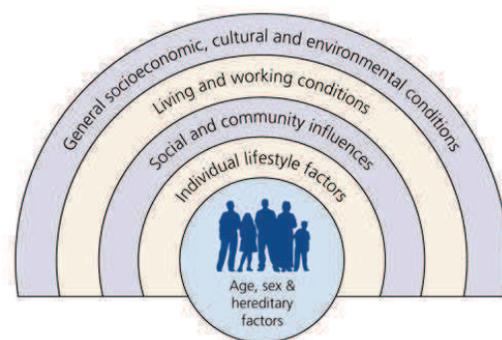
The U.S. Census Bureau collects detailed information on population demographics including age, sex, race, education, employment, income, and poverty.

## METHODS

The Community Health Assessment followed the MAPP process to examine the community health status of Gulf County. Factors at multiple levels were analyzed – from lifestyle behaviors (e.g., diet and exercise) to clinical care (e.g., access to health care services) to social and economic factors (e.g., employment opportunities) to the physical environment (e.g., rural community aspects). Each factor in conjunction with all the others impacts the health of Gulf County residents. A social determinant of health perspective was adopted to guide the CHA process.

### Social Determinants of Health Framework

It is recognized that health is influenced by a number of factors in the dynamic relationship between people and their environments. The social determinants of health framework addresses the distribution of wellness and illness within a population. The Gulf County community represented by the data within this report live and work within an economic, social, and political context that is enabled and constrained by the rich network constructed by its multitude of relationships. Individual lifestyle factors are influenced by and influence health outcomes throughout the Gulf County community. The social determinants of health framework focuses attention on the factors which most impact health within the larger social and economic context.



### Quantitative Data

Data for this report was drawn from county, state, and national sources in order to develop a social, economic and health snapshot in time of Gulf County. Sources of data included, but were not limited to, the U.S. Census, County Health Rankings, and Florida Department of Health. Types of data included self-report of health behaviors using the Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System (BRFSS), public health surveillance data from Florida Department of Health's Community Health Assessment Resource Tool Set (CHARTS), as well as vital statistics based on birth and death records.

## Qualitative Data

During 2011 to 2012, focus groups, workshops, community survey, and forums were conducted with Gulf County residents and members of the health community to assess their perceptions of the community, their health concerns, and the programs, services, and/or initiatives which would best address those concerns. A Community Health Survey completed by 346 Gulf County residents provided information about perceptions of the health of the community, residents and the health care system. Focus group meetings with 17 community participants assessed perceptions of the quality and access of health services. A forum of community health partners determined the strengths, weaknesses, opportunities, and threats (SWOT) within the Gulf County health care system. A workshop with 27 community health partners identified strategic priorities and goals for future health improvement activities.

## Limitations

Several limitations related to this assessment's research methods should be acknowledged. As a snapshot in time, the data may not represent the "current" population within Gulf County and should not be interpreted as definitive. While the most current BRFSS and CHARTS data was used, this data is at least one year old due to the nature of the reporting systems used. In some cases, data from CHARTS is aggregated across multiple years to increase sample size (e.g., rolling three-year rates). In other cases, CHARTS and BRFSS data could not provide information stratified by race/ethnicity, gender, or age due to small sample sizes.

Self-report data, such as BRFSS, should be interpreted with caution. While the Florida Department of Health, who conducts the telephone interviews for BRFSS, strives to eliminate sampling bias, respondents may not accurately report behaviors and illnesses based on fear of social stigma or misunderstanding the question being asked. Recall bias may also limit the risk factor or health outcome data.

Finally, the results of the forums and workshops should not be generalized as being representative of the larger Gulf County community due to the non-random recruiting techniques and small sample size. Recruitment for these events was conducted with community health partners, and participants may have already been involved and/or interested in community health issues.



# Strategic Planning

The Community Health Assessment defines the health of a community using a Social Determinants of Health model which recognizes numerous factors at multiple levels impact a community's health. This report serves as the foundation in the final step in the Community Health Improvement efforts – the Action Plan.



## SUMMARY FROM MAPP ASSESSMENTS

The key findings from each of the four MAPP assessments are used to identify the strategic issues for addressing community health issues. The Community Health Status Profile, Local Public Health System Assessment, Forces of Change, and Community Strengths and Themes all serve to inform Gulf County public health partners and residents about the best ways to use existing resources wisely, consider unique local conditions and needs, and form effective partnerships for action. The key issues from each assessment include:

<p><b>Community Health Status Profile</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Access to and coordination of health care services</li> <li>○ Uninsured and underinsured</li> <li>○ Limited health care providers</li> <li>○ Limited mental health/substance abuse resources</li> <li>○ Lack of culturally and linguistically appropriate health services</li> <li>○ Sexually Transmitted Diseases increasing</li> <li>○ Chronic diseases and risks increasing</li> <li>○ Improve prevention, early detection, and case management</li> <li>○ High poverty levels</li> <li>○ Substance abuse</li> <li>○ Improve education and awareness</li> </ul>	<p><b>Community Themes &amp; Strengths Assessment</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Access to health care services               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Providers needed in behavioral health, prenatal, and obstetrics/gynecology</li> </ul> </li> <li>○ Uninsured and underinsured</li> <li>○ Lack of transportation</li> <li>○ Chronic diseases and risks increasing</li> <li>○ Improve prevention, early detection, and case management</li> <li>○ High poverty levels</li> <li>○ Substance Abuse</li> <li>○ Improve education and awareness</li> </ul>
<p><b>Local Public Health System Assessment</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ ES #3: Inform, Educate, And Empower People about Health Issues</li> <li>○ ES #4: Mobilize Community Partnerships to Identify and Solve Health Problems</li> <li>○ ES # 6: Enforce Laws and Regulations that Protect Health and Ensure Safety</li> <li>○ ES # 9: Evaluate Effectiveness, Accessibility, and Quality of Personal and Population-</li> </ul>	<p><b>Forces of Change Assessment</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Access to and coordination of health care services</li> <li>○ Uninsured and underinsured</li> <li>○ Limited health care providers</li> <li>○ Chronic diseases and risks increasing</li> </ul>

Based Health Services	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Improve prevention, early detection, and case management</li> <li>○ High poverty levels</li> <li>○ Substance abuse</li> <li>○ Improve education and awareness</li> </ul>
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**STRATEGIC ISSUE 1: ECONOMIC HEALTH**

- Goal:** Gulf County will strengthen its competitive environment to conduct business, encourage economic growth and create jobs.
- Strategies:**
1. Speak w/ one voice.
  2. Leverage Gulf County designations (e.g. Rural Areas of Critical Economic Concern (RACEC), Enterprise Zone) to maximize funding and incentives available to fund development of needed community resources.

**STRATEGIC ISSUE 2: HEALTH & SOCIAL SERVICE RESOURCES**

- Goal:** Increase awareness of community health, spiritual, and social services available in Gulf County.
- Strategies:**
1. Build quality of life resource directory.
  2. Build media campaign to promote quality of life resource directory.

**STRATEGIC ISSUE 3: ACCESS TO HEALTHCARE**

- Goal:** All people living in our communities will have access to high quality, affordable healthcare services.
- Strategies:**
1. All people living in our communities will have access to high quality, affordable healthcare services.
  2. Strengthen communication, coordination and collaboration among



The next step in the Gulf County process is to conduct the *Community Health Improvement Planning (CHIP)* phase of the MAPP process, wherein the results from this report will be reviewed by community health partners. By understanding that the Gulf County community's health is affected by where its residents live, work, and play a comprehensive action plan can be developed.

healthcare providers and partner service agencies.

3. Increase capacity.

#### STRATEGIC ISSUE 4: SOCIAL & MENTAL HEALTH

**Goal:** Improve social/mental health in Gulf County.

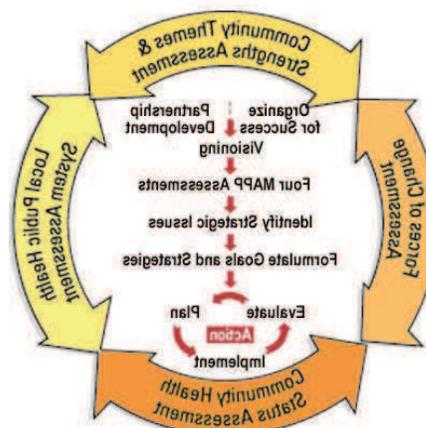
- Strategies:**
1. Create an inventory of mental health resources available to community organizations.
  2. Increase capacity of mental health services.
  3. Create an inventory of substance abuse resources available to community organizations.
  4. Increase capacity of substance abuse services.

This process follows the guidelines of the Mobilizing for Action through Planning and Partnerships (MAPP) model. MAPP was developed by the National Association of County and City Health Officials (NACCHO), in collaboration with the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). MAPP provides a framework to create and implement a community health improvement plan that focuses on long-term strategies that address multiple factors that affect health in a community.

This model utilizes six distinct phases:

1. Partnership development and organizing for success
2. Visioning
3. The Four MAPP assessments
  - Community Health Status Assessment
  - Community Strength and Themes Assessment
  - Local Public Health System Assessment
  - Forces of Change Assessment
4. Identifying strategic issues
5. Formulating goals and strategies
6. Action (program planning, implementation, and evaluation)

It is recommended that the data sources in this report serve as the “measures of success” for the Community Health Improvement Action Plan. Many of the health indicators can be used as baseline and post-implementation evaluation measures for impact. In addition, other county and state successful Health Improvement initiatives can act as “Best Practices” and provide a foundation for the Community Health Improvement Plan’s activities.







# GULF COUNTY PROFILE

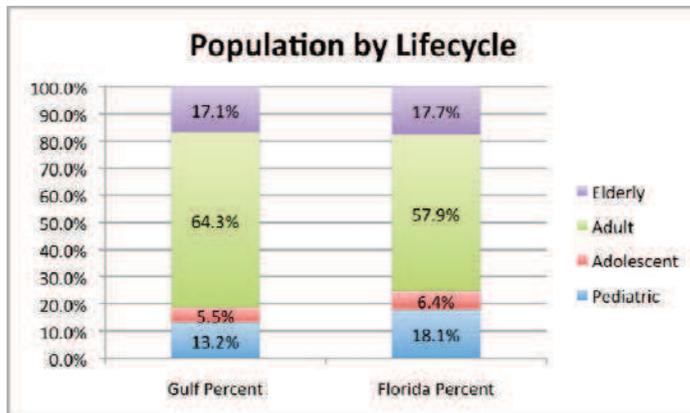
The health of a community is associated with the kinds of resources and services available, as well as, who lives in the community. The demographics of a community are related to the rates of health outcomes and behavior of that area. Age, gender, and race/ethnicity are important characteristics that can impact an individual's health; however, it is the distribution of these characteristics in a community which most affect the breadth and depth of health services and resources, as well as access to those services and resources.



## POPULATION CHARACTERISTICS

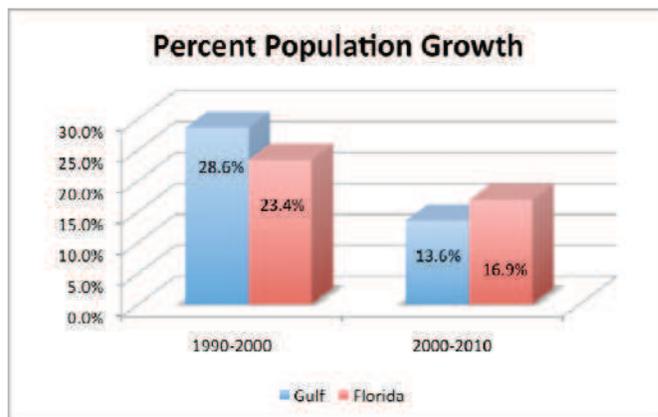
Gulf County has a total area of 745 square miles; of which 555 square miles is land and 190 square miles (25.5%) is water. There are two population centers, Wewahitchka in the northeast part of the County, and Port St Joe (the county seat and largest city in Gulf County) on the coast.

Gulf County is approximately 35 miles southeast of Panama City and 200 miles southwest of Tallahassee. Cape San Blas is a narrow strip of land jutting out into the Gulf and separating the Gulf of Mexico and St. Joseph Bay. The area is low in density, featuring mainly single-family homes, and tourist rentals. The St Joseph Peninsula is a 15-mile long barrier island, and home to the St Joseph Peninsula State Park.



With a 2010 population of 16,744 living in 555 square miles, Gulf County has a population density of 30 persons per land mass square mile, compared to 348 persons per square mile for Florida.

In 1990, Gulf County had a total population of 11,501, which increased in the 2000 census by 28.6% to 14,785. The growth in this decade was higher than Statewide, which experienced a 23.4% increase. By 2010, there was a further 13.6% increase, to a total population of 16,744. The decade 2000-2010 showed a growth rate lower than Statewide.



Area	1990 Population	2000 Population	Percent Change 1990-2000	2010	Percent Change 2000-2010	Percent Change 1990-2010
Gulf County	11,501	14,785	28.6%	16,744	13.6%	45.6%
Florida	13,029,114	16,074,896	23.4%	18,788,794	16.9%	44.2%

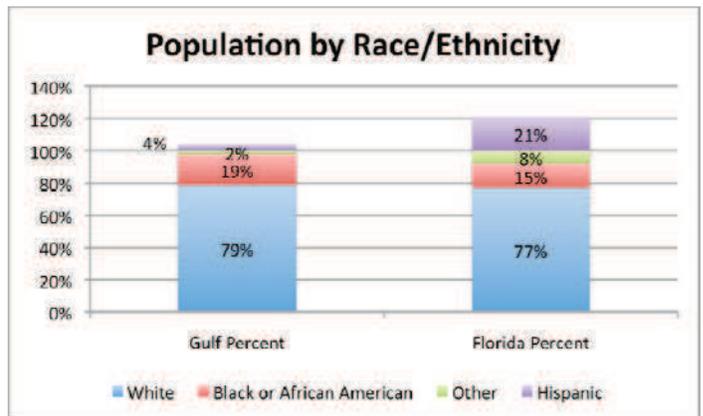
## Population by Age

Gulf County has a lower percent of the pediatric and adolescent populations and a higher percent of the adult populations than Statewide, while the elderly percent of population is nearly the same as Statewide.

Lifecycle	Age	Gulf Number	Gulf Percent	Florida Percent
Pediatric	0-14	2,207	13.2%	18.1%
Adolescent	15-19	917	5.5%	6.4%
Adult	20-64	10,763	64.3%	57.9%
Elderly	65+	2,857	17.1%	17.7%
Total	N/A	16,744	100.0%	100.0%

## Population by Race and Ethnicity

The population is predominately white, at 79%. Of the non-white population, 19% is African-American with other races totaling only 2%. Only 4% of the population is Hispanic. Gulf County has a higher percent of Black/African Americans than Statewide, but a lower percent of Other Races.



The percent of non-English speaking population is much lower State-wide, however, there are still an estimated 753 individuals or 5.1% of the population in Gulf County who do not speak English at home.

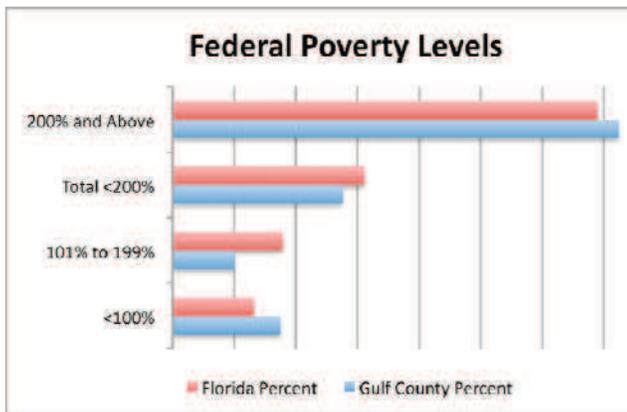
## SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC CHARACTERISTICS

### Income and Poverty

In 2009, Gulf County had a median household income that was 81% of the statewide rate. Per capita income was at 71% the statewide rate. Household income is the combination of two income earners pooling the resources and should therefore not be confused with an individual's (per capita) earnings.

The median household income is considered the more accurate of the two calculations.

Income Category	Florida	Gulf	Gulf Percent of State
Median household income	\$47,450	\$38,574	81%
Per capita income	\$26,503	\$18,754	71%

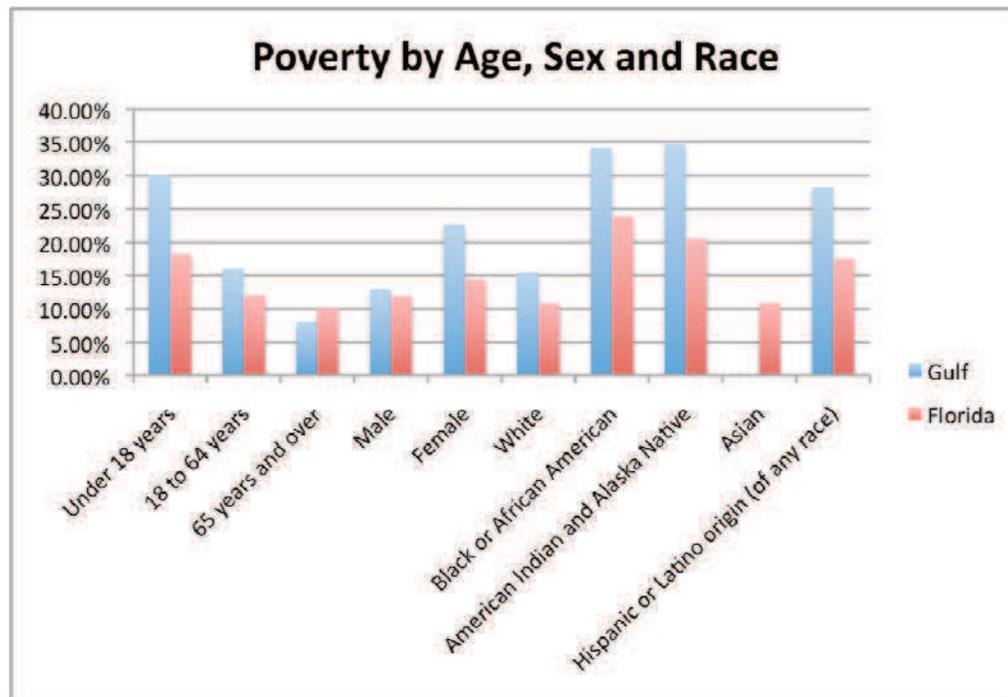


In 2010, 2,930 individuals had incomes less than 100% Federal Poverty Level (FPL), and 4,623 had incomes less than 200% of the FPL—the point at which sliding fee discounts are usually applied. The percent poverty in Gulf County is 4% higher than Statewide for those with incomes <100% FPL, but is 3.5% lower than Statewide for those with incomes <200% FPL. However, these data do not show the impact of the economic downturn, since the poverty percentages were from the 2005-2009 Census estimates. The computed low-income population of 4,623 should be considered understated.

Poverty Level	Gulf County Number	Gulf County Percent	Florida Percent
<100%	2,930	17.5%	13.2%
101% to 199%	1,693	10.1%	17.9%
Total <200%	4,623	27.6%	31.1%
200% and Above	12,121	72.4%	68.9%
Total All Income Levels	16,744	100%	100%

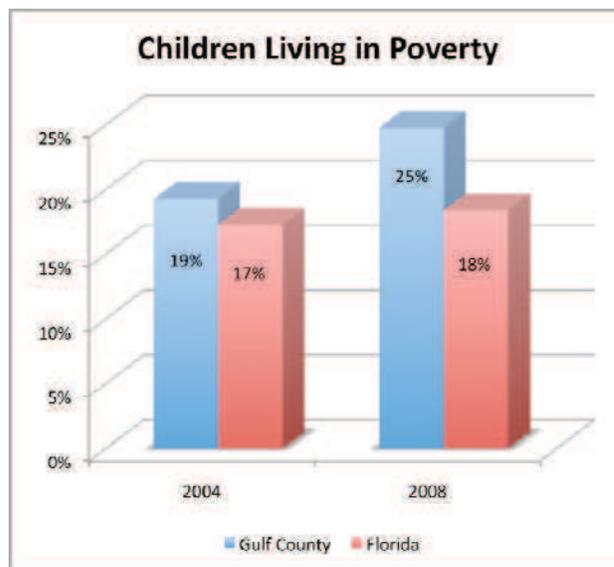
“Poverty” or “Below Poverty” are terms used to define those with incomes < 100% FPL. The most severe poverty in Gulf County is found in children under age 18 (65% higher than the Statewide rate), women (58% higher than the Statewide rate), white and black people (each 44% higher than the Statewide rate), American Indians (69% higher than the Statewide rate), and Hispanics (62% higher than the Statewide rate).

Percent Below Poverty by Age and Race	Florida	Gulf	Gulf Percent of State
<b>AGE</b>			
Under 18 years	18.3%	30.2%	165%
18 to 64 years	12.1%	16.0%	132%
65 years and over	10.1%	8.1%	80%
<b>SEX</b>			
Male	11.9%	13.0%	109%
Female	14.4%	22.7%	158%
<b>RACE AND HISPANIC OR LATINO ORIGIN</b>			
White	10.8%	15.5%	144%
Black or African American	23.8%	34.2%	144%
American Indian and Alaska Native	20.5%	34.7%	169%
Asian	10.9%	0.0%	0%
Hispanic or Latino origin (of any race)	17.5%	28.3%	162%

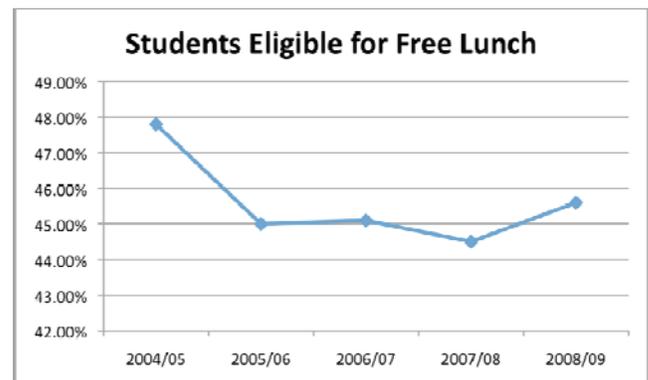


In 2004, 19.3% of children were living in poverty in Gulf County. This percentage of children in poverty was 111.6% the statewide rate. However, by 2008, the County percent had increased to 24.8%, and was 134.8% the state rate.

Population	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008
Children Under Age 18 in Poverty	517	642	686	563	618
County Children Under Age 18	19.3%	24.3%	26.4%	22.1%	24.8%
Florida Children Under Age 18	17.3%	18.1%	17.6%	17.3%	18.4%
County as Percent of State	111.6%	134.3%	150.0%	127.7%	134.8%

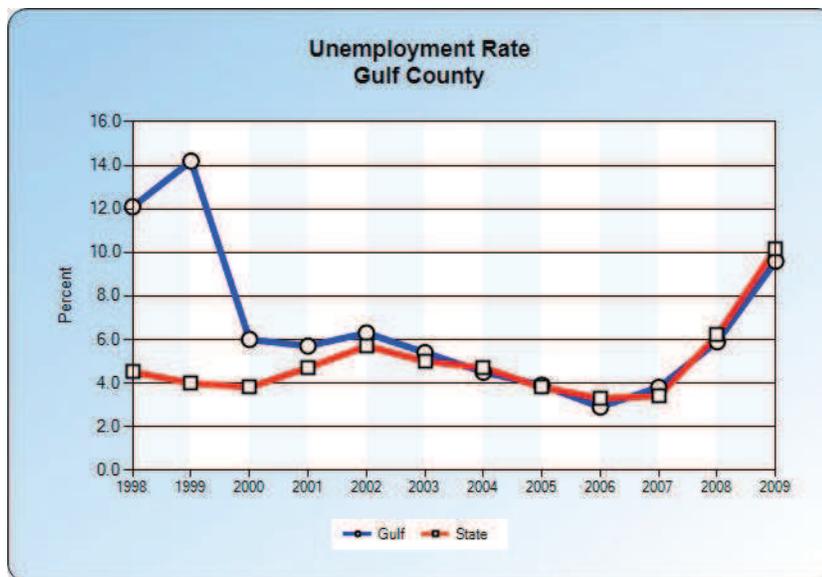


One indicator often used to assess poverty is the number of children approved for subsidized school lunches. In 2004/05, 47.8% of Gulf County children qualified for this subsidy. By 2008/09, the percent has decreased to 45.6%.



## Unemployment

County unemployment rates have historically been similar to statewide since the dramatic drop in 2000. While unemployment has increased dramatically, in 2010, the County rate is slightly lower than statewide. However, what is not specifically available, but can be inferred, is that while people are employed, many are employed in low earning jobs, as indicated by the median income rates that are lower than statewide. Gulf County unemployment rates are in the Florida Quartile 2—mid-range for all Florida counties.



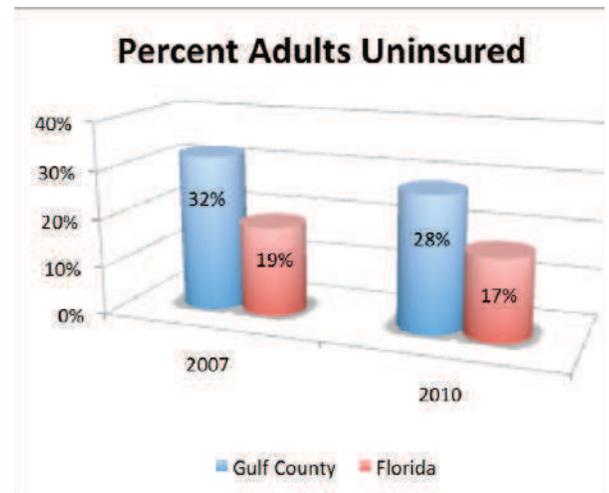
## Insurance

Current information on insurance status is not often available for small population groupings. The US Census Bureau measures income, poverty and health insurance status, but the most current data available is for 2007. The Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System Data Report (BRFSS) also collects information about insurance, although the data for Gulf County is quite different than the census data.

Age Group	2002 Gulf County	2007 Gulf County	2002-2007 Change in Percent	2007 State	Gulf 2007 Percent of State	Gulf Quartile	2010 Gulf County	2010 State	Gulf 2010 Percent of State
Overall	26.0%	32.4%	6.4	18.6%	174%	4	28.2%	17.0%	166%
18-44 years	33.1%	50.4%	17.3	27.6%	183%	4	37.8%	27.0%	140%
45-64 years	31.9%	29.1%	-2.8	17.3%	168%	4	30.2%	16.6%	182%
65 & Older	5.1%	2.4%	-2.7	2.7%	89%	3	1.8%	2.0%	90%

The BRFSS Report includes data on insurance status by age. This data shows a total 2007 uninsured rate of 32.4%, a rate that was 74% higher than the State rate of 18.6%, placing Gulf County in the 4th Florida Quartile. In the 2010 BRFSS, the Gulf County overall rate had decreased to 28.2%, which was 66% higher than the State rate. With 28.2% of the adult population reporting no insurance, the total number of uninsured adults is 3,844.

For the age group 18-44 years, the percent uninsured increased 17.3% from 2002-2007, and in 2007 was 83% higher than Statewide, placing Gulf County in the 4th Florida Quartile. In the 2010 BRFSS, the Gulf County 18-44 rate had decreased from 50% to 37.8%, which was 40% higher than the State rate.



For the age group 45-64 years, the percent uninsured decreased 2.8% from 2002-2007, and in 2007 was 68% higher than Statewide, placing Gulf County in the 4th Florida Quartile. In the 2010 BRFSS, the Gulf County 45-64 rate had increased from 29.1% to 30.1%, which was 82% higher than the State rate.

For the age group 65 and older, the percent uninsured decreased 2.7% from 2002-2007, and in 2007 was 89% of the State wide rate, placing Gulf County in the 3rd Florida Quartile. In the 2010 BRFSS, the Gulf County over 65 rate had decreased from 2.4% to 1.8%, which was 90% of the State rate.

For the age group 65 and older, the percent uninsured decreased 2.7% from 2002-2007, and in 2007 was 89% of the State wide rate, placing Gulf County in the 3rd Florida Quartile. In the 2010 BRFSS, the Gulf County over 65 rate had decreased from 2.4% to 1.8%, which was 90% of the State rate.

Low-income persons may be eligible to be insured by Medicaid. For the years 2007-2009, Gulf County had a median monthly enrollment of Medicaid recipients of 2,178, with a rate per 100,000 population lower than Statewide.

Indicator	Year(s)	County Number	County Rate per 100,000	State Rate per 100,000
Median Monthly Medicaid Enrollment	2007-2009	2,178	12,893	13,178

The type of insurance can also present a barrier to access. Some providers do not accept Medicaid because the reimbursement is so low. Rural Health Clinics (RHC) and Federally Qualified Health Centers (FQHC) receive higher reimbursement from both Medicare and Medicaid than private practices, and in fact, have a financial incentive to seek out Medicaid and Medicare patients. FQHCs receive federal grant funding to support fee discounts through a sliding fee scale for low-income patients

In the GCHD Survey, participants were asked about payment for services. Some respondents obviously indicated more than one payment source since the total responses were greater than the 346 surveys completed. Given this respondent rate totals more than 100%, it is not accurate to compare the payer source from the data. However, these figures are presented for basic comparison purposes.

The GCHD Survey also queried access to health insurance and the adequacy of that coverage; 30-34% of respondents stated that they have insurance, and that this coverage is available through their jobs. Of course, this means that 66-70% of respondents stated that they did NOT have insurance that meets their health care needs.

In the survey, 37% stated that they have no insurance, a figure higher than the earlier responses about paying for care by cash (25%). The highest response rate about coverage was to the question about trying to obtain insurance, but being unable to do so—63% of responses. While 65% of respondents stated that they know where to go for care, even though they are uninsured, which of course, means that 35% of the participants do NOT know where to go for care if they are uninsured. However, even though 63% know where to obtain care, 42% stated that either they, or someone in their family, had an illness that was not treated due to lack of insurance.

The Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act includes many provisions, including the expansion of Medicaid eligibility, subsidized insurance premiums, prohibiting denial of coverage/claims based on pre-

existing conditions, the establishment of health insurance exchanges, and the establishment of multiple federal grant programs to support services. However, many of these provisions will be implemented over a four-year period, and will still leave many people uninsured. Efforts to repeal the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act, plus Federal and State level policy considerations that could restrict coverage and benefits through Medicaid and Medicare, all create an environment of uncertainty about how people will be able to access health care.

Question	Percent Agree
I have health insurance that covers my health care needs.	30%
My family's health care needs are covered by health insurance.	34%
Health insurance is available through my job.	34%
I can afford to buy health insurance through my job.	22%
I do not have health insurance.	37%
I do not want health insurance.	1%
I have tried to get health insurance for myself or family and could not get it.	63%
I or a family member had an illness that was not treated because we did not have health insurance.	42%
I know where I can go for health care even if I don't have insurance.	65%

## Key Social and Economic Factors

In the Mobilizing Action toward Community Health (MATCH) 2010 County Health Rankings Social and Economic Factors in Gulf County for the aggregate period 2006-2008, Gulf County ranks number 52 out of 67 in the state for the total of all indicators, with 1 being the best in the state.

Social and Economic Factors	Gulf County	Florida	County Rank
High School graduation	65%	64%	52
College degrees	12%	25%	
Unemployment	6%	6%	
Children in poverty	22%	17%	
Income inequality	44	47	
Inadequate social support	29%	21%	
Single-parent households	10%	9%	
Violent crime rate (per 100,000 population)	751	714	



# COMMUNITY HEALTH STATUS PROFILE

Gulf County Health Department (GCHD) and Sacred Heart Hospital on the Gulf (SHHG) are jointly undertaking a 2011 Community Needs Assessment. This document is the first step in an ongoing collaboration, and as such, presents the data and initial findings about Gulf County health. The goal of the Assessment is to define the current health status of Gulf County residents, identify the current resources, project needed resources, and identify gaps in services. This information is presented as a tool for local planners to develop strategies for meeting the needs of Gulf County residents and for assuring that the providers in the County remain viable. This report was completed in September 2011.



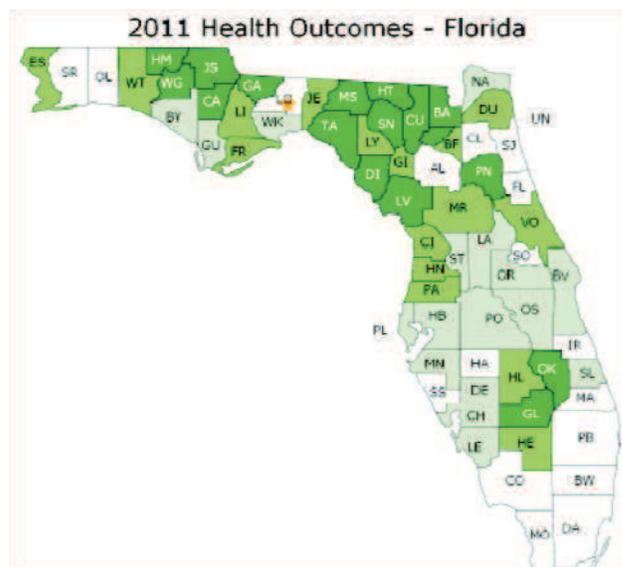
## COUNTY HEALTH RANKINGS

The University of Wisconsin Population Health Institute has produced County Health Rankings for all US counties. That document ranks the 'health' of a county based on several criteria, and compares each county to all counties within each state. Counties with the highest rank (e.g., 1 or 2) are estimated to be the "healthiest".

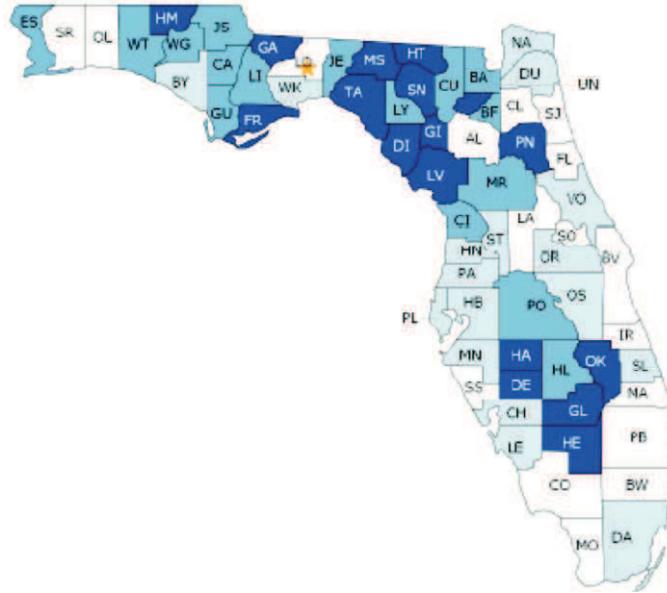
This report provides the following summary of Gulf County Health Status. Health Outcomes represent how healthy a county is while Health Factors are what influences the health of the county. The Rank is based on 67 Florida counties. Sources, data dates, and additional information are available at [www.countyhealthrankings.org](http://www.countyhealthrankings.org).

As shown in these maps, Gulf County has a rank of 19 for Health Outcomes, and a rank of 40 for Health Factors.

Gulf County	Rank	Definition
<b>Total Rank</b>	<b>19</b>	How healthy a county is
Morbidity	14	Quality of life
Mortality	31	Length of life



### 2011 Health Factors - Florida



Rank 1-17    Rank 18-34    Rank 35-50    Rank 51-67

Gulf County	Rank	Definition
<b>Health Factors Total Rank</b>	<b>40</b>	What influences the health of the county
Health Behaviors	35	Tobacco, Diet and Exercise, Alcohol Use, High Risk Sexual Behavior
Clinical Care	46	Access and Quality of Care
Social & Economic Factors	45	Education, Employment, Income, Family and Social Support, Community Safety
Physical Environment	7	Air Quality, "Built Environment" (healthy foods, liquor stores)

## MAJOR CAUSES OF DEATH

The major causes of death in Florida are shown in the table below. This table shows the number of deaths in Gulf County for the single year 2009. Rates per population are averaged over the 3-year period 2007-2009. Gulf County three-year death rates exceed State wide rates in 13 mortality categories.

Gulf County Higher than State wide	Gulf County Lower than State wide
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• All Causes</li> <li>• Cancer</li> <li>• Heart Disease</li> <li>• Chronic Lower Respiratory Disease</li> <li>• All Unintentional Injuries</li> <li>• Diabetes</li> <li>• Alzheimer's Disease</li> <li>• Stroke</li> <li>• Kidney Disease</li> <li>• Suicide</li> <li>• Septicemia</li> <li>• Benign Neoplasm</li> <li>• Pneumonia/Influenza</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Chronic Liver Disease/ Cirrhosis</li> <li>• Parkinson's Disease</li> <li>• Homicide</li> <li>• AIDS/HIV</li> </ul>

Of particular note is that:

- The Gulf County Death Rate due to Diabetes is more than twice the State wide rate.
- The Gulf County Death Rate due to Chronic Lower Respiratory Disease is 183.6% the State wide rate.

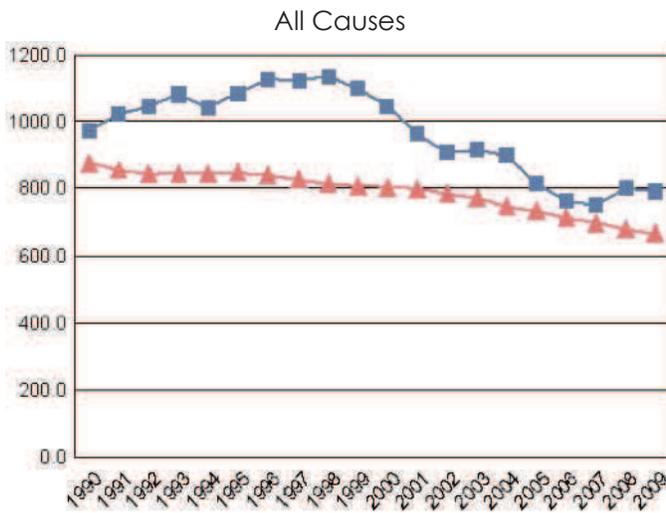
Leading Causes of Death	Gulf 2009 Number of Deaths	Gulf Age Adjusted Death Rate (3 Year Rate)	State Age Adjusted Death Rate (3 Year Rate)	County Rate Percent State Rate	Gulf Higher than State	Gulf Lower than State
All Causes	169	793.1	666.7	119.0%	X	
Cancer	36	188.7	160.7	117.4%	X	
Heart Disease	43	169.7	155	109.5%	X	
Chronic Lower Respiratory Disease	16	68.1	37.1	183.6%	X	
All Unintentional Injuries	9	60.4	44	137.3%	X	
Diabetes	11	40.9	20	204.5%	X	
Alzheimer's Disease	4	18.4	15.8	116.5%	X	
Stroke	11	34.2	31.6	108.2%	X	
Kidney Disease	2	15.6	11.2	139.3%	X	
Chronic Liver Disease/ Cirrhosis	2	6.1	10.2	59.8%		X
Suicide	2	15.3	13.7	111.7%	X	
Septicemia	1	7.9	7.4	106.8%	X	
Parkinson's Disease	2	4.6	5.7	80.7%		X
Benian Neoplasm	0	4.3	4.1	104.9%	X	
Pneumonia/Influenza	3	10.6	8.7	121.8%	X	
Homicide	1	1.4	7.1	19.7%		X
AIDS/HIV	0	0	7.4	0.0%		X
Total Count					13	4

Source: Florida Charts, County and State Profiles, Major Causes of Death, three-year rates are per 100,000 population

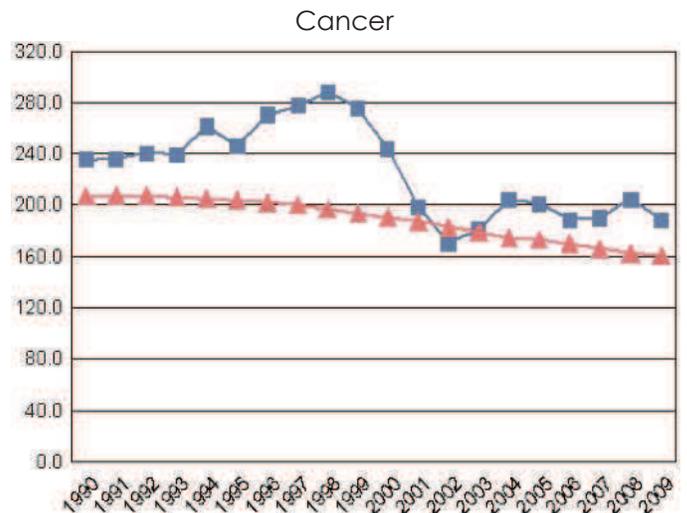
The following graphs illustrate the Gulf County trends in mortality from the leading causes of death for the past twenty years. The indicators are Age Adjusted Annual Rates. Charts are from Florida Charts, Major Causes of Death report.

**Mortality From Causes of Death Age Adjusted 3-Year Rate - Causes Where Gulf County Higher Than Statewide**

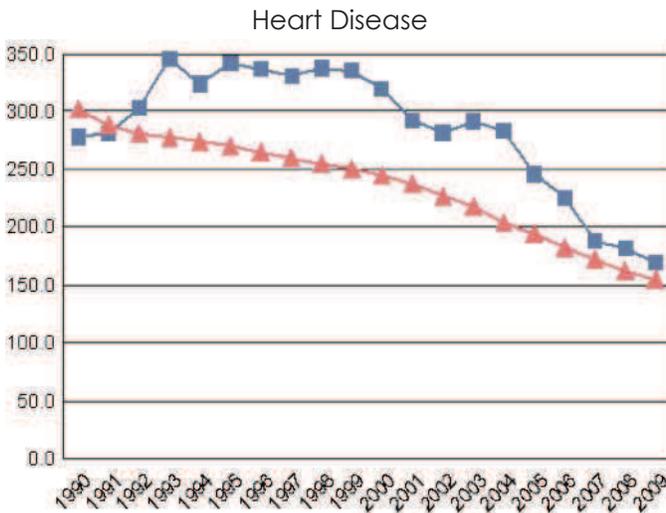
County  
State



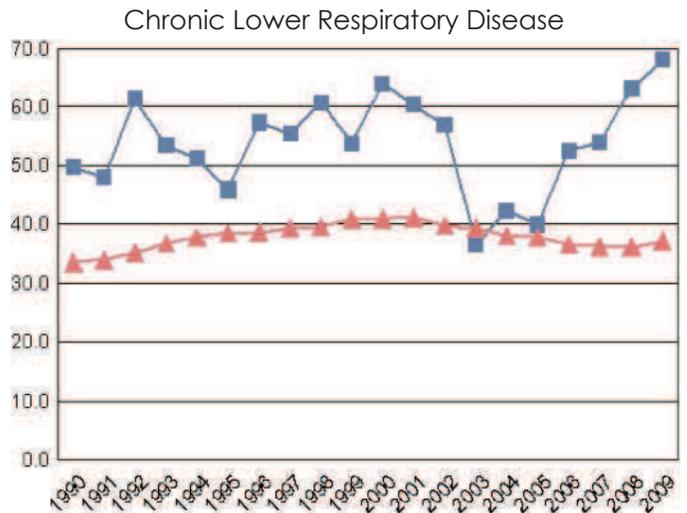
#2009 Deaths 169  
3-Year Rate 793.1  
Percent State Rate 119.0%



#2009 Deaths 36  
3-Year Rate 188.7  
Percent State Rate 117.4%



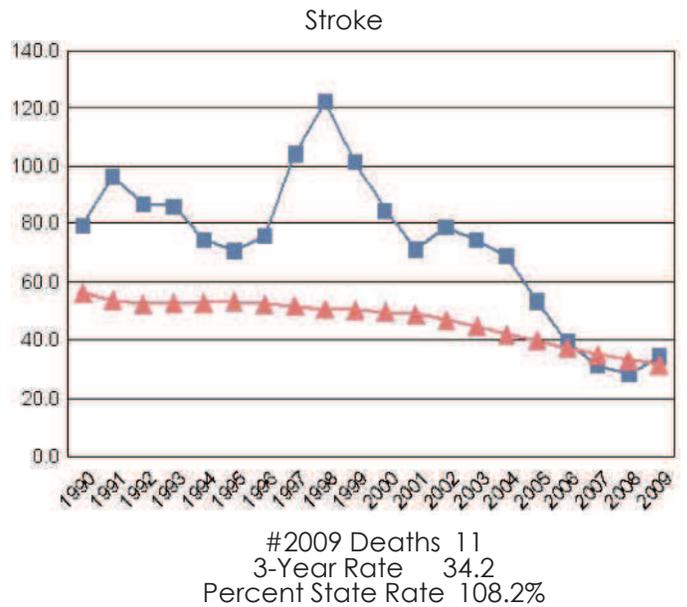
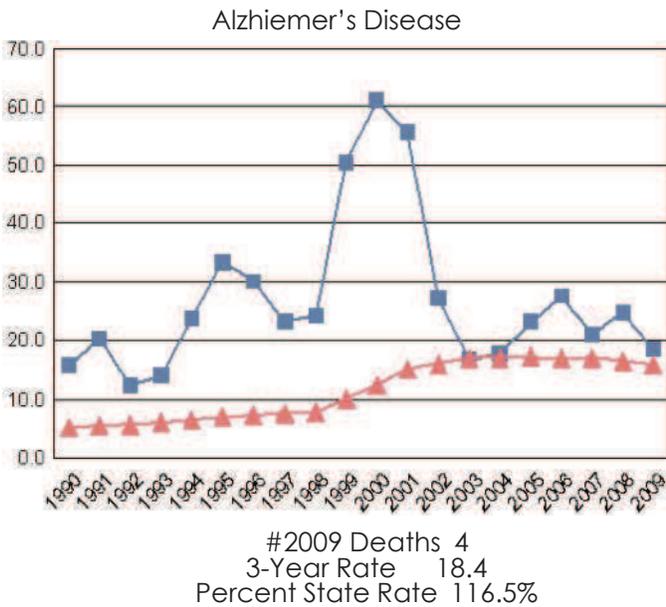
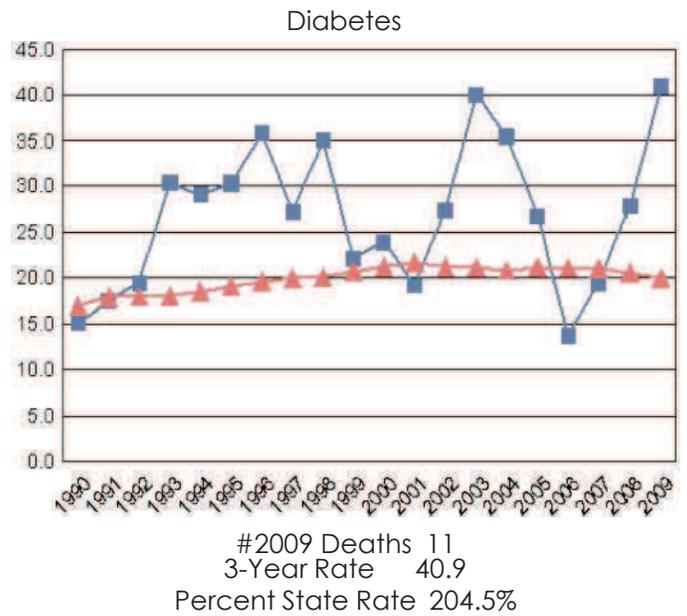
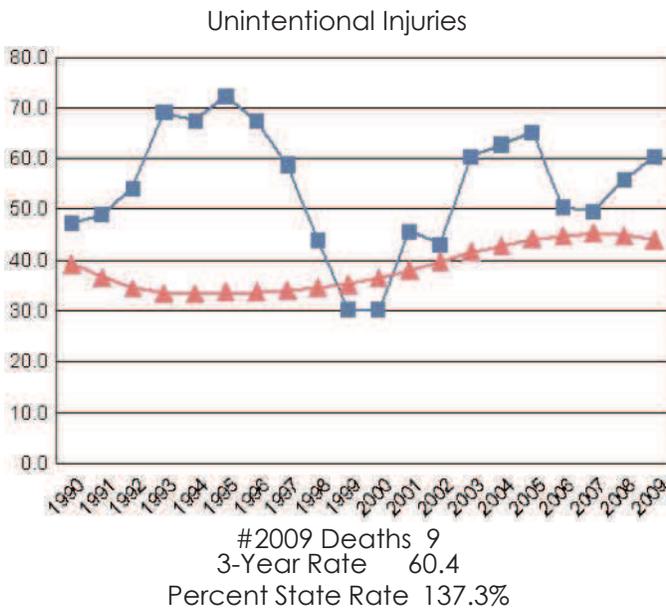
#2009 Deaths 43  
3-Year Rate 169.7  
Percent State Rate 109.5%



#2009 Deaths 16  
3-Year Rate 68.1  
Percent State Rate 183.6%

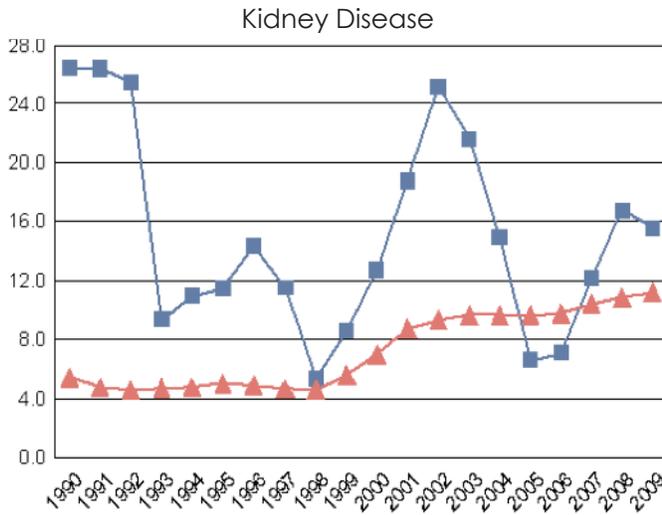
**Mortality From Causes of Death Age Adjusted 3-Year Rate - Causes Where Gulf County Higher Than Statewide**

County  
State

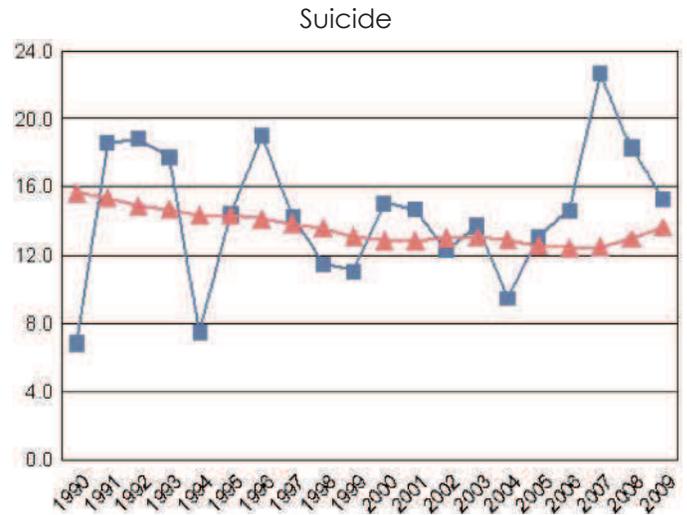


**Mortality From Causes of Death Age Adjusted 3-Year Rate - Causes Where Gulf County Higher Than Statewide (continued)**

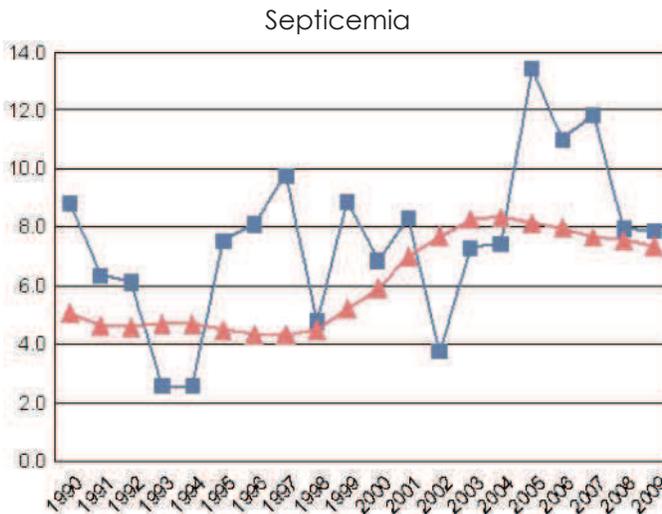
County  
State



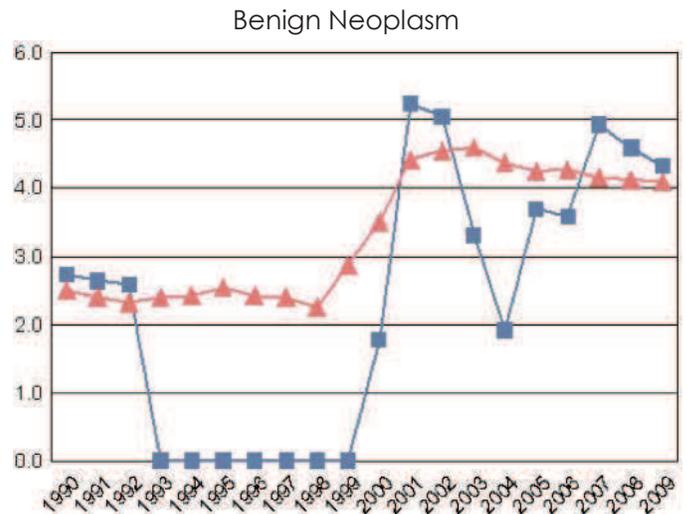
#2009 Deaths 2  
3-Year Rate 15.6  
Percent State Rate 139.3%



#2009 Deaths 2  
3-Year Rate 15.3  
Percent State Rate 111.7%



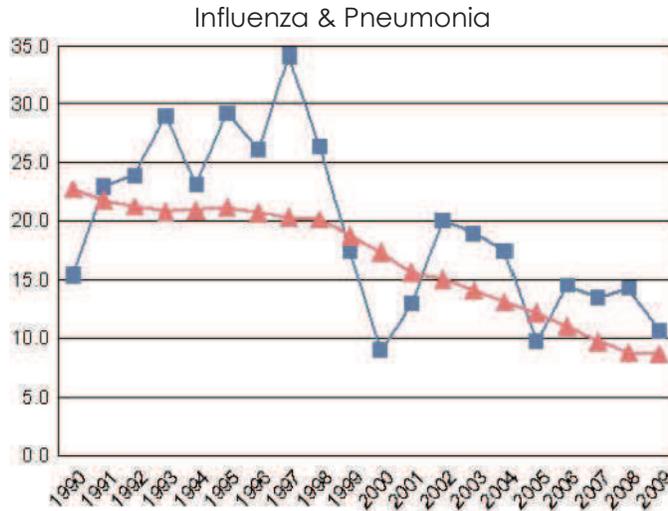
#2009 Deaths 1  
3-Year Rate 7.9  
Percent State Rate 106.8%



#2009 Deaths 0  
3-Year Rate 4.3  
Percent State Rate 104.9%

**Mortality From Causes of Death Age Adjusted 3-Year Rate - Causes Where Gulf County Higher Than Statewide (continued)**

County  
State

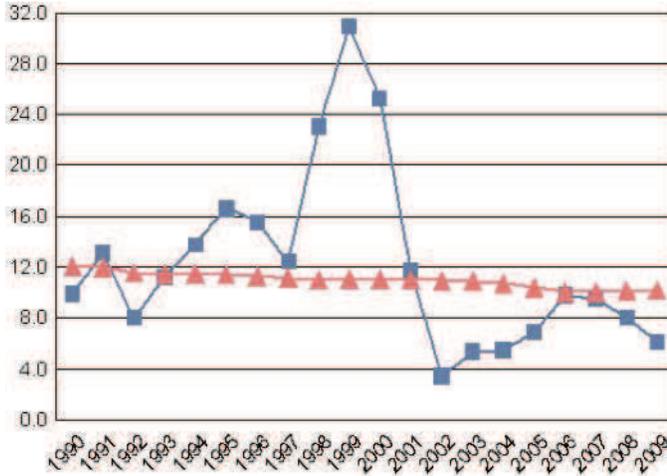


#2009 Deaths 3  
 3-Year Rate 10.6  
 Percent State Rate 121.8%

**Mortality From Causes of Death Age Adjusted 3-Year Rate - Causes Where Gulf County Lower Than Statewide**

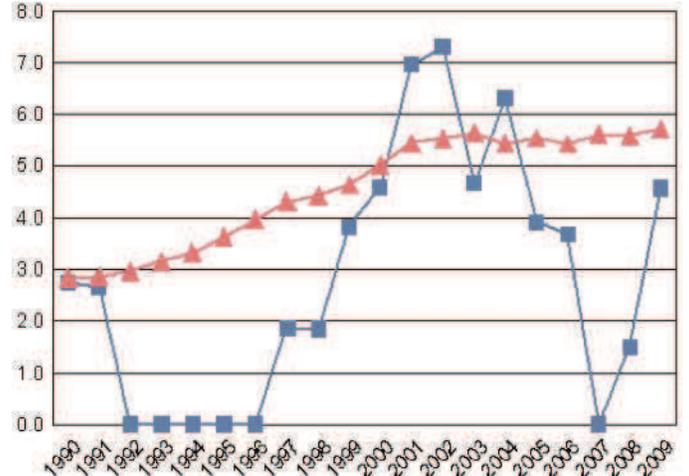
■ County  
▲ State

Chronic Liver Disease & Cirrhosis



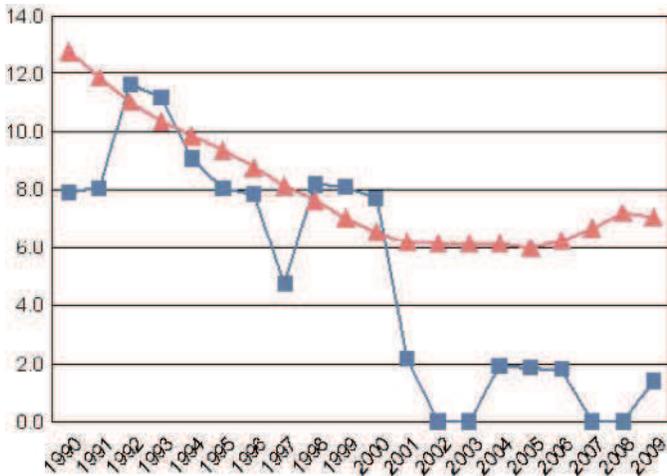
#2009 Deaths 2  
 3-Year Rate 6.1  
 Percent State Rate 59.8%

Parkinson's Disease



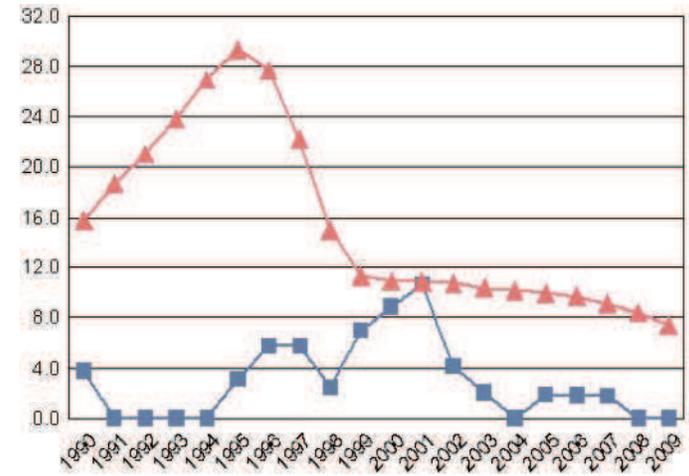
#2009 Deaths 2  
 3-Year Rate 4.6  
 Percent State Rate 80.7%

Homicide



#2009 Deaths 1  
 3-Year Rate 1.4  
 Percent State Rate 19.7%

HIV/AIDs



#2009 Deaths 0  
 3-Year Rate 7.4  
 Percent State Rate 0.0%

## Years of Potential Life Lost (YPLL)

The Mobilizing Action toward Community Health (MATCH) County Health Rankings Mortality Score for Gulf County shows that Gulf County ranks 14th in the state for premature death.

Premature death is represented by the years of potential life lost before age 75 (YPLL-75). Every death occurring before the age of 75 contributes to the total number of years of potential life lost. For example, a person dying at age 25 contributes 50 years of life lost, whereas a person who dies at age 65 contributes 10 years of life lost to a county's YPLL. The YPLL measure is presented as a rate per 100,000 population.

Premature Death Factors	Gulf County	Florida	County Rank (of 67)
Number of Deaths	211	212,30	14
Years of Potential Life Lost Rate	7,453	7,896	

Source: University of Wisconsin Population Health Institute. County Health Rankings 2011. [www.countyhealthrankings.org](http://www.countyhealthrankings.org)

The County Health Rankings seeks to quantify and compare the health status of county populations by measuring the burden of premature deaths (premature mortality), an important measure of a population's well-being. Many of these deaths are considered to be preventable. The data for this ranking is for years 2005-2007.

The 2011 County Health Rankings report was released to the public March 20, 2011. This data is often used for community health assessments, particularly by County Health Departments. However, sometimes State data will be important to augment the County Health Rankings, and other similar reports.

Florida Charts provides the Major Causes of Death data. This report includes not only the mortality rates reproduced in this table, but also the Years of Potential Life Lost. While the County Health Rankings data is for the three- year period 2005-2007, the Florida Charts data is for the year 2009. Adding the 2009 Florida Charts YPLL data to the County Health Rankings 2005-2007 data, as shown below, shows that for the single year 2009, the Gulf County YPLL increased, while the State rate decreased.

<b>Years of Potential Life Lost Time Period</b>	<b>Gulf County</b>	<b>Florida</b>
2005-2007 (County Health Rankings)	7,453	7,896
2009 (Florida Charts)	8,856	7,662

Three-year data is useful, particularly for small population areas, since single events can skew rates. However, three-year data can be less helpful than single year data in the sense that the effect of local efforts (new services, providers, etc.) will not be as obvious. Planners need to consider both sets of data.

Gulf County has rates of YPLL for 2009 higher than Statewide in 9 of the major cause of death. Chronic lower respiratory disease is more than three times the State rate, and stroke is more than double the State rate.

<b>Cause of Death</b>	<b>Gulf County YPLL</b>	<b>Gulf Percent of State</b>	<b>Florida YPLL</b>
All Causes	8,856.4	115.6%	7,661.9
Cancer	2,207.7	130.8%	1,687.7
Heart Disease	1,354.1	130.1%	1,040.7
Chronic Lower Respiratory	757.3	355.0%	213.3
All Unintentional Injuries	1,848.3	143.5%	1,287.7
Diabetes	96.3	47.5%	202.7
Alzheimer's Disease	12.8	168.4%	7.6
Stroke	385.1	204.3%	188.5
Kidney Disease	0	0.0%	79.7
Chronic Liver Disease/ Suicide	237.5	115.0%	206.5
Septicemia	545.5	128.1%	425.8
Parkinson's Disease	0	0.0%	75.4
Benign Neoplasm	0	0.0%	7.3
Pneumonia/Influenza	0	0.0%	36.6
Homicide	0	0.0%	98.1
AIDS/HIV	109.1	40.3%	270.9
	0	0.0%	193.7

Source: Florida Charts, County and State Profiles, Major Causes of Death

## CHRONIC DISEASE

A chronic condition is a condition lasting 12 months or longer and meeting one or both of the following tests: (a) the condition places limitations on self-care, independent living and social interactions; (b) the condition results in the need for ongoing intervention with medical products, services and special equipment.

### Arthritis

The Gulf County 2007 percent of adults who have been told they have some form of arthritis was 33% higher than State wide. However, in the 2010 Report, the percent adults who have been told they have some form of arthritis increased from 32.3% to 39%, and the Gulf County percent of State rates decreased from 33% higher to 22% higher than the State rate.

Population		2007 Gulf County	2007 State	2007 Gulf Percent of State	2010 Gulf County	2010 State	2010 Gulf Percent of State
All	Overall	32.30%	24.30%	133%	39.0%	32.0%	122%
Sex	Men	33.10%	20.80%	159%	36.6%	26.5%	138%
	Women	31.50%	27.60%	114%	43.2%	37.0%	117%
Age Group	18-44	25.00%	8.90%	281%	24.5%	11.9%	206%
	45-64	31.30%	29.70%	105%	43.3%	33.5%	129%
	> 64	53.00%	47.60%	111%	56.5%	59.6%	95%

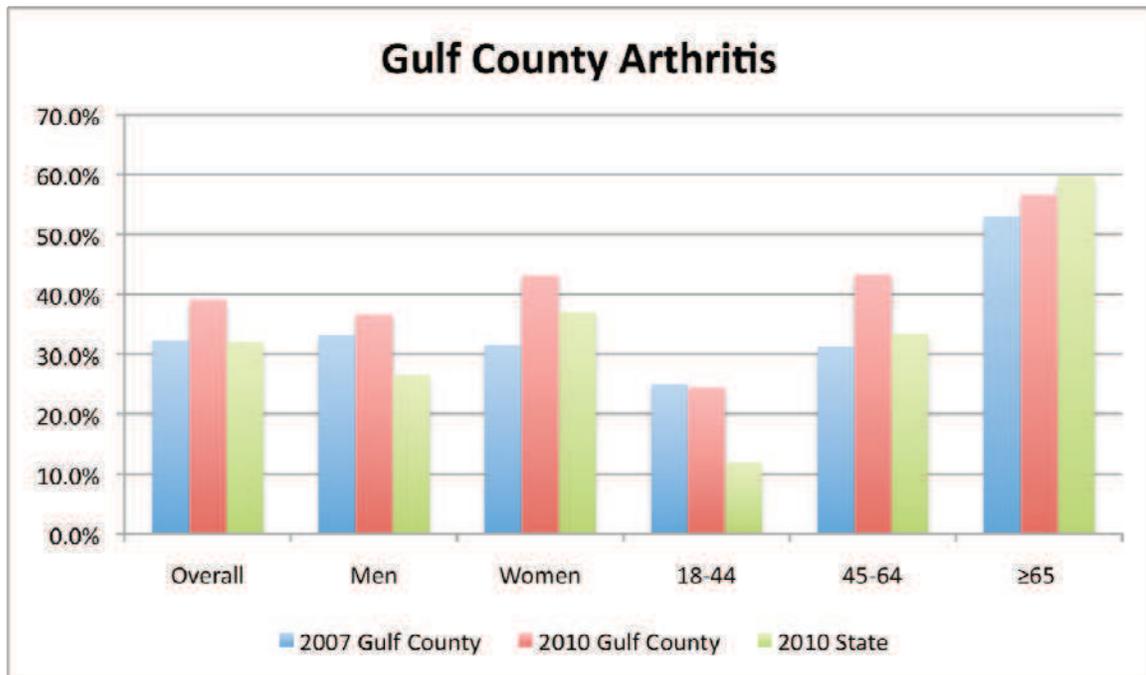
Source: Florida Department of Health, Division of Disease Control, Bureau of Epidemiology, Chronic Disease Epidemiology Section, 2007 BRFSS Report and 2010 BRFSS Report

Based on the percent within Gulf County, more men than women have arthritis in 2007. The Gulf County percent of men with arthritis was 159% the State rate, while the percent of women with arthritis was 114% the State rate.

However, in the 2010 Report, the percent men who have been told they have some form of arthritis increased from 33.1% to 36.6%, and the Gulf County percent of State actually decreased to 38% higher than the State rate. Also, in the 2010 Report, the percent women who have been told they have some form of arthritis increased from 31.5% to 43.2%, and the Gulf County percent of State increased to 17% higher than the State rate.

The percent of adults age 18-44 with arthritis in 2007 was 281% the State rate, and while there was a slight decrease in the incidence by 2010, the rate is still double the State rate. In Gulf

County, the age group 65 and older has the highest percent of arthritis with 53% in 2007, increasing to 56.5% in 2010. Compared to State rates, the age group 18-44 has the highest difference with the County rate 281% the State rate in 2007, decreasing to 206% the State rate in 2010. Based only on these data, the greatest need for arthritis education and intervention in Gulf County would be in the male population age 18-44.



## Asthma

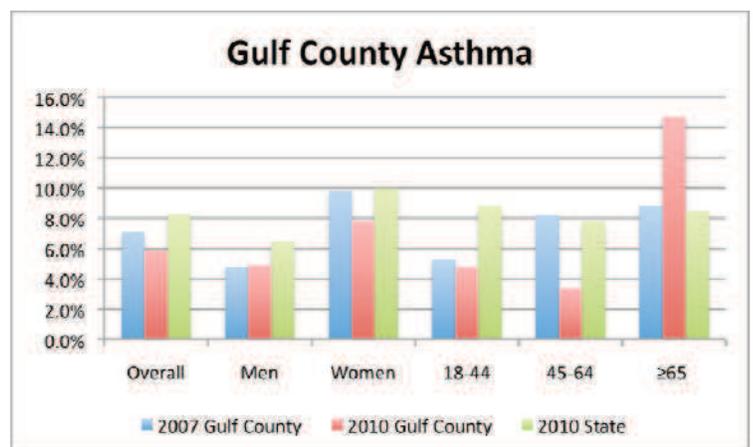
The Gulf County 2007 percent of adults with asthma was 15% higher than State wide. However, in the 2010 Report, the percent adults with asthma decreased from 7.1% to 5.9%, and the Gulf County percent of State decreased to 71% of the State rate.

Population		2007 Gulf County	2007 State	2007 Gulf Percent of State	2010 Gulf County	2010 State	2010 Gulf Percent of State
All	Overall	7.1%	6.2%	115%	5.9%	8.3%	71%
Sex	Men	4.8%	4.9%	98%	4.9%	6.5%	75%
	Women	9.8%	7.4%	132%	7.8%	10.0%	78%
Age Group	18-44	5.3%	5.8%	91%	4.8%	8.8%	55%
	45-64	8.2%	6.7%	122%	3.4%	7.8%	44%
	> 64	8.8%	6.1%	144%	14.7%	8.5%	173%

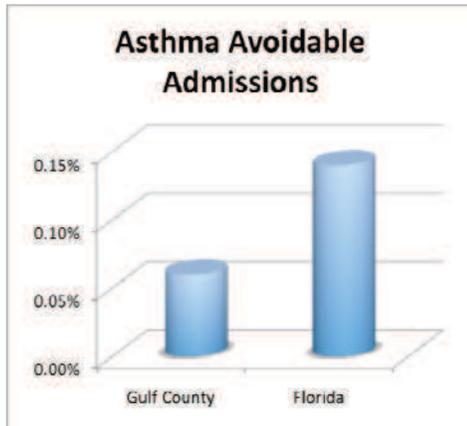
Source: Florida Department of Health, Division of Disease Control, Bureau of Epidemiology, Chronic Disease Epidemiology Section, 2007 BRFSS Report and 2010 BRFSS Report

Based on the percent within Gulf County, more women than men have asthma. The Gulf County percent of women with asthma was 132% the State rate in 2007, but decreased to 78% of the State rate in 2010. The percent of men with asthma was 98% the State rate in 2007, and decreased to 75% of the State rate in 2010.

In Gulf County, the age group 65 and older has the highest percent of asthma. Compared to State rates, the age group 65 and older has the highest difference with the County rate 44% higher than the State rate in 2007. This rate increased to 73% higher than the State rate in 2010. The Gulf County percent was 8.8% in 2007, but increased to 14.7% in 2010. Based only on these data, the greatest need for asthma education and intervention in Gulf County would be targeted to the female population age 65 and older.



The Broward Regional Health Planning Council Health Data Warehouse PQI/Chronic Conditions data section reports that in 2009 there were 125 total hospital admissions for Gulf County residents due to asthma. The Health Data Warehouse PQI/Avoidable Admission data section reports that in 2009 there were 8 avoidable hospital admissions for Gulf County residents due to asthma, for a rate of 0.06%, half the State wide rate of 0.14%.



Source: Broward Regional Health Planning Council, Hospital Inpatient & Emergency Department Analytical System, [healthdata.brhpc.org](http://healthdata.brhpc.org)

Gulf County is ranked in the 3rd Quartile for the 3- year rate of hospitalizations attributable to asthma. The 3-year hospitalization rate is 94.6% the State rate.

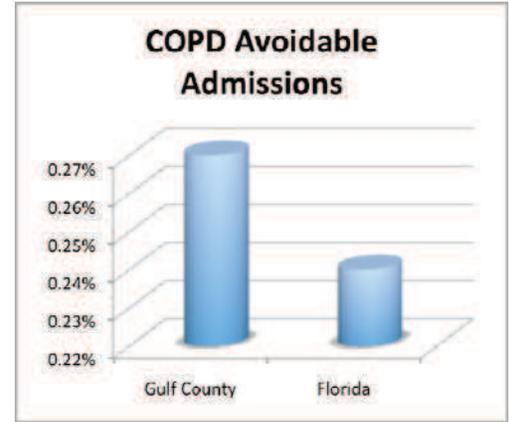
Diagnosis	Average Annual Number of Events	Age Adjusted Rate	Quartile	State Age Adjusted Rate	3-Year Rate Percent of State
Asthma	128	690.8	3	729.9	94.6%
Chronic Lower Respiratory Disease	68	336.9	2	339.9	99.1%

Source: Florida Charts, Chronic Disease Profile

Gulf County is ranked in the 2nd Quartile for the rate of hospitalizations attributable to chronic lower respiratory disease. The 3-year hospitalization rate is 99.1% the State rate.

The Broward Regional Health Planning Council Health Data Warehouse PQI/Avoidable Admission data section reports that in 2009 there were 37 avoidable hospital admissions for Gulf County residents due to COPD, for a rate of 0.27%, slightly higher than the State wide rate of 0.24%.

Indicator	Gulf County	State
COPD Admissions	37	0.24%
Rate of COPD Admissions	0.27%	



Source: Broward Regional Health Planning Council, Hospital Inpatient & Emergency Department Analytical System, [healthdata.brhpc.org](http://healthdata.brhpc.org)

## Stroke

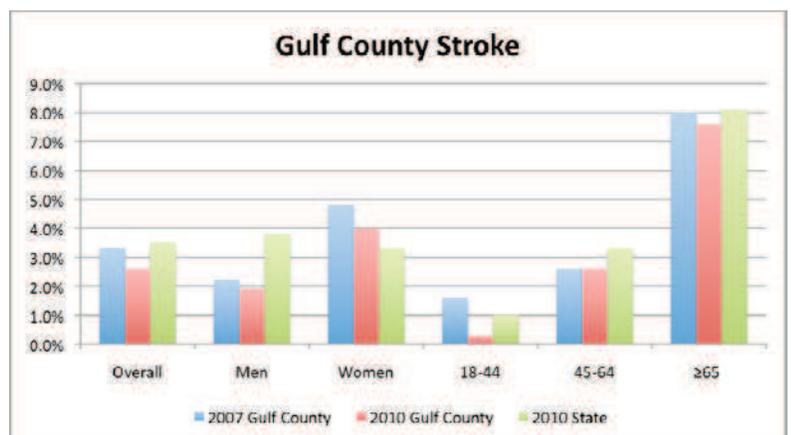
The Gulf County 2007 percent of adults who have ever had a stroke was 6% higher than Statewide. However, in the 2010 Report, the percent adults who have ever had a stroke decreased from 3.3% to 2.6%, and the Gulf County percent of State decreased from 106% of the State rate to 74% of the State rate.

Population		2007 Gulf County	2007 State	2007 Gulf Percent of State	2010 Gulf County	2010 State	2010 Gulf Percent of State
All	Overall	3.3%	3.1%	106%	2.6%	3.5%	74%
Sex	Men	2.2%	2.9%	76%	1.9%	3.8%	50%
	Women	4.8%	3.4%	141%	4.0%	3.3%	121%
Age Group	18-44	1.6%	1.1%	145%	0.3%	1.0%	30%
	45-64	2.6%	2.7%	96%	2.6%	3.3%	79%
	> 64	8.0%	7.9%	101%	7.6%	8.1%	94%

Source: Florida Department of Health, Division of Disease Control, Bureau of Epidemiology, Chronic Disease Epidemiology Section, 2007 BRFSS Report and 2010 BRFSS Report

Based on the percent within Gulf County, more women than men have had a stroke. The Gulf County percent of women with stroke history is 121% the State rate, while the percent of men with stroke history is 50% the State rate.

In Gulf County, the age group 65 and older has the highest percent of stroke history. In 2007, compared to State rates, the age group 18-44 has the highest difference with the County rate 45% higher than the State rate. However, in 2010, the rate of stroke in the 18-44 age group decreased from 1.6% to 0.3%, and this new rate is 30% the State rate.



Based only on this data, the greatest need for stroke prevention education and intervention in Gulf County would be targeted to the female population age 65 and older.

Gulf County is ranked in the 4th Quartile for the rate of hospitalizations attributable to stroke. The 3-year hospitalization rate is 116.3% the State rate.

<b>County</b>	<b>Average Annual Number of Events</b>	<b>Age Adjusted Rate</b>	<b>Quartile</b>	<b>State Age Adjusted</b>	<b>County 3-Year Rate Percent of State</b>
Gulf	67	312.3	4	268.6	116.3%

Source: Florida Charts: Chronic Disease Profile

## Heart Disease

The Gulf County 2007 percent of adults who have ever had a heart attack, angina, or coronary heart disease was 23% higher than State wide. However, in the 2010 Report, the percent adults who have ever had a heart attack, angina, or coronary heart disease decreased from 11.4% to 10.5%, and the Gulf County percent of State decreased from 123% of the State rate to 103% of the State rate.

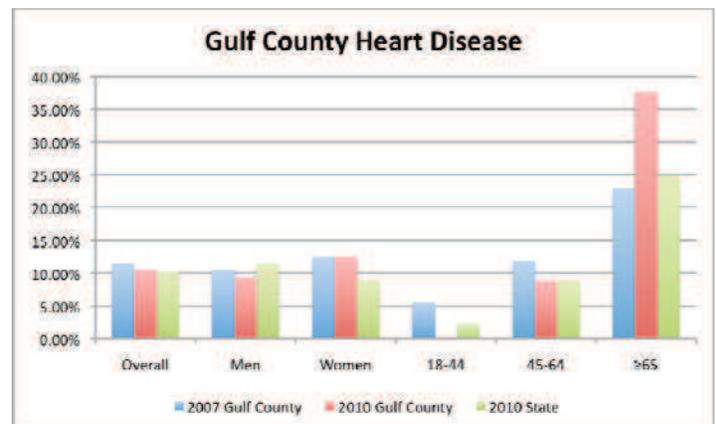
Population		2007 Gulf County	2007 State	2007 Gulf Percent of State	2010 Gulf County	2010 State	2010 Gulf Percent of State
All	Overall	11.4%	9.3%	123%	10.5%	10.2%	103%
Sex	Men	10.6%	10.3%	103%	9.4%	11.5%	82%
	Women	12.5%	8.3%	151%	12.5%	8.9%	140%
Age Group	18-44	5.5%	2.2%	250%	0.3%	2.3%	13%
	45-64	11.9%	9.1%	131%	8.8%	8.9%	99%
	> 64	22.8%	23.9%	95%	37.6%	24.8%	152%

Source: Florida Department of Health, Division of Disease Control, Bureau of Epidemiology, Chronic Disease Epidemiology Section, 2007 BRFSS Report and 2010 BRFSS Report

Based on the percent within Gulf County, more women than men have had these cardiac conditions. In 2007, the Gulf County percent of women with this history was 151% the State rate. While the County percent of women stayed at 12.5%, the State rate increased, so the County rate in 2010 is 140% the State rate. The percent of men with this history decreased from 103% the State rate in 2007 to 82% the State rate in 2010.

In Gulf County, the age group 65 and older has the highest percent of cardiac conditions. The County percent increased from 22.8% in 2007 to 37.6% in 2010—a rate that is now 152% the State rate.

Based only on this data, the greatest need for cardiac education and intervention in Gulf County would be targeted to the female population age 65 and older.



Gulf County is ranked in the 4th Quartile for the rate of hospitalizations attributable to coronary heart disease. The 3-year hospitalization rate is 144.1% the State rate.

Gulf County is ranked in the 3rd Quartile for the rate of hospitalizations attributable to congestive heart failure. The 3-year hospitalization rate is 111.2% the State rate.

Diagnosis	Average Annual Number of Events	Age Adjusted Rate	Quartile	State Age Adjusted Rate	3-Year Rate Percent of State
Coronary Heart Disease	137	634.6	4	440.4	144.1%
Congestive Heart Failure	44	206.1	3	185.3	111.2%

Source: Florida Charts: Chronic Disease Profile

The Broward Regional Health Planning Council Health Data Warehouse PQI/Chronic Conditions data section reports that in 2009 there were 829 total hospital admission for Gulf County residents due to hypertension, and 324 total admissions for congestive heart failure. These diagnoses include primary and secondary diagnoses.

Indicator	Gulf County
Hypertension Admissions	829
Congestive Heart Failure Admissions	324

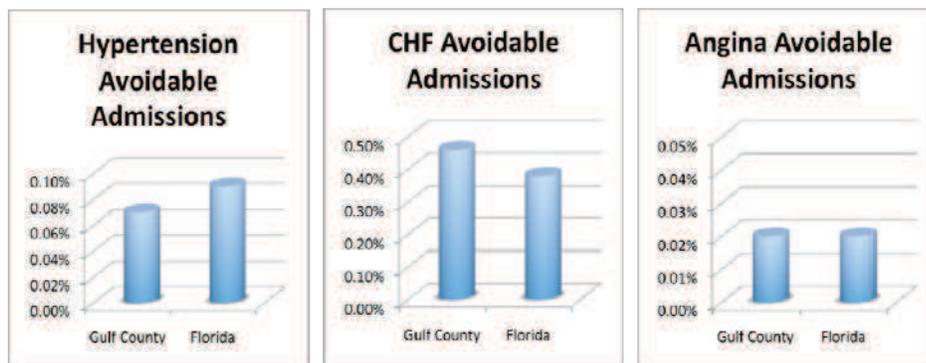
Source: Broward Regional Health Planning Council, Hospital Inpatient & Emergency Department Analytical System, [healthdata.brhpc.org](http://healthdata.brhpc.org)

The Health Data Warehouse PQI/Avoidable Admission data section reports that in 2009 there were 10 avoidable hospital admissions for Gulf County residents due to hypertension, for a rate of 0.07%, lower than the Statewide rate of 0.09%.

There were 64 avoidable hospital admissions for Gulf County residents due to congestive heart failure, for a rate of 0.46%, higher than the State wide rate of 0.38%. There were 3 avoidable hospital admissions for Gulf County residents due to angina, for a rate of 0.02%, the same as the State wide rate of 0.02%.

Indicator	Gulf County	State
Hypertension Admissions	10	0.09%
Rate of Hypertension Admissions	0.07%	
Congestive Heart Failure Admissions	64	0.38%
Rate of Congestive Heart Failure Admissions	0.46%	
Angina Admissions	3	0.02%
Rate of Angina Admissions	0.02%	

Source: Broward Regional Health Planning Council, Hospital Inpatient & Emergency Department Analytical System



Gulf County ranks in the 4th Quartile for the percent of adults with diagnosed hypertension, with 37.8% of the population with a hypertension diagnosis, compared to 28.2% Statewide.

Diagnosis	Gulf Percent Adults	Quartile	State Percent Adults
Hypertension	37.8%	4	28.2%
High blood cholesterol	34.4%	1	37.1%

Gulf County ranks in the 1st Quartile for the percent of adults with diagnosed high cholesterol, with 34.4% of the population with a high cholesterol diagnosis, compared to 37.1% Statewide.

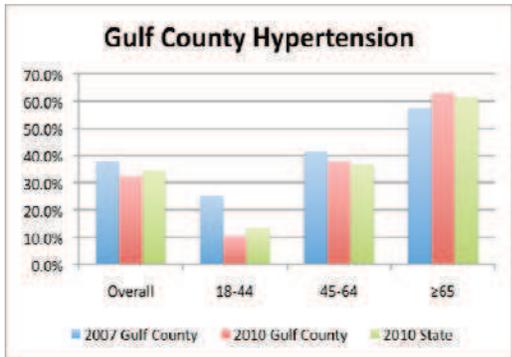
Of those individuals with a diagnosis of hypertension, the highest percent is in the age group 65 and older. In 2007, 57.6% of this population had a diagnosis of hypertension, a figure that was 108% of the State Rate. In 2010, the County percent had increased to 63%, a figure that was 102% the State rate.

Population		2007 Gulf County	2007 State	2007 Gulf Percent of State	2010 Gulf County	2010 State	2010 Gulf Percent of State
All	Overall	37.8%	28.2%	134%	32.5%	34.3%	95%
Age Group	18-44	25.4%	11.6%	219%	10.5%	13.2%	80%
	45-64	41.3%	33.9%	122%	37.5%	36.8%	102%
	> 64	57.6%	53.5%	108%	63.0%	61.7%	102%

Source: Florida Charts: Chronic Disease Profile

The age group 45-64 also has a prevalence of 102% the State rate. While the age group 18-44 had a prevalence of 219% the State rate in 2007, this figure decreased to 80% in 2010.

Based only on this data, the greatest need for hypertension education and intervention in Gulf County would be targeted to the population age 45 and older.



## Diabetes

The Gulf County 2007 percent of adults with diagnosed diabetes is 103% the State wide rate. However, in 2010, the County rate had decreased to 73% the State rate.

Based on the percent within Gulf County, more women than men have diabetes. Compared to State rates, the Gulf County percent of women with diabetes is 117% the State rate, while the percent of men with diabetes is 50% the State rate.

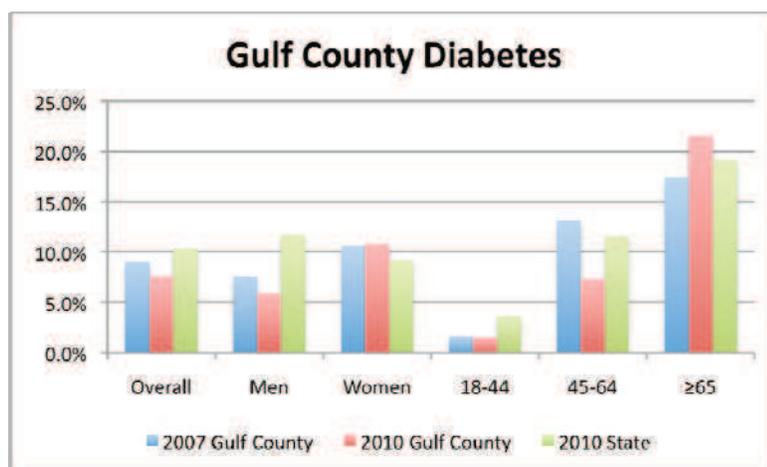
Population		2007 Gulf County	2007 State	2007 Gulf Percent of State	2010 Gulf County	2010 State	2010 Gulf Percent of State
All	Overall	9.0%	8.7%	103%	7.6%	10.4%	73%
Sex	Men	7.6%	9.4%	81%	5.9%	11.7%	50%
	Women	10.6%	8.1%	131%	10.8%	9.2%	117%
Age Group	18-44	1.6%	2.4%	67%	1.5%	3.6%	42%
	45-64	13.1%	10.9%	120%	7.3%	11.6%	63%
	> 64	17.4%	18.5%	94%	21.6%	19.2%	113%

Source: Florida Department of Health, Division of Disease Control, Bureau of Epidemiology, Chronic Disease Epidemiology Section, 2007 BRFSS Report and 2010 BRFSS Report

In Gulf County, the age group 65 and older has the highest percent of diabetes. However, compared to State rates, the greatest difference is for women, at 117% the State rate.

Based only on this data, the greatest need for diabetes education and intervention in Gulf County would be targeted to the female population age 65 and older.

Gulf County is ranked in the 3rd Quartile for the rate of hospitalizations with diabetes as a primary or contributing diagnosis. The 3-year hospitalization rate is 105.1% the State rate.



Hospitalizations	Average Annual Number of Events	Age-Adjusted Rate	Quartile	State Age Adjusted Rate	3-Year Rate Percent of State
From or With Diabetes	473	2,239.5	3	2,130.8	105.1%
From Amputation Due to Diabetes	4	19.2	2	23.8	80.7%

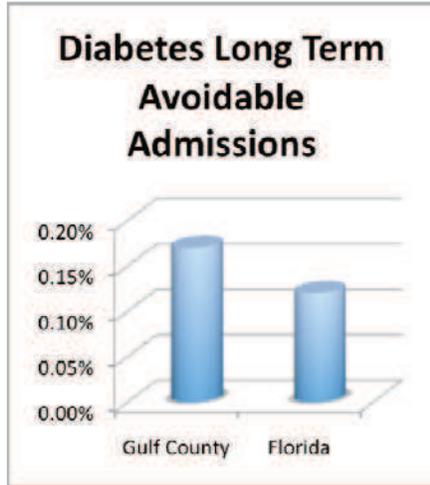
Note: Includes primary and contributing diagnoses

Source: Florida Charts: Chronic Disease Profile

Gulf County is ranked in the 2nd Quartile for the rate of hospitalizations for amputation due to diabetes. The 3-year hospitalization rate is 80.7% the State rate. The Broward Regional Health Planning Council Health Data Warehouse PQI/Chronic Conditions data section reports that in 2009 there were 486 total hospital admissions for Gulf County residents due to diabetes.

The Health Data Warehouse PQI/Avoidable Admission data section reports that in 2009 there were 5 avoidable hospital admissions for Gulf County residents due to short-term complications of diabetes, for a rate of 0.04%, slightly lower than the 0.05%, State wide rate.

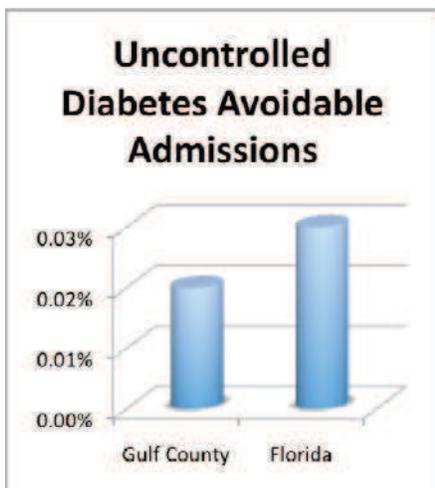
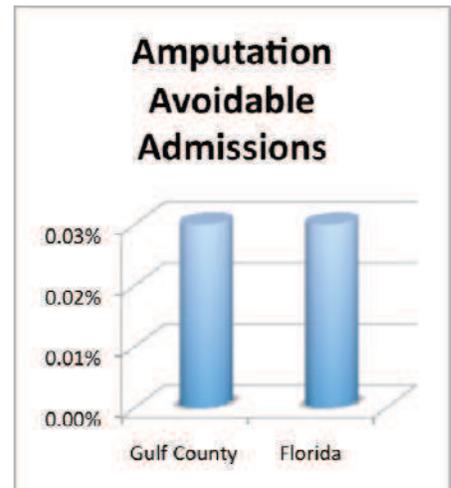
Indicator	Gulf County	State
Diabetes/Short term	5	0.05%
Rate of Diabetes/Short term Admissions	0.04%	
Diabetes/Long term	24	0.12%
Rate of Diabetes/Long term Admissions	0.17%	
Uncontrolled Diabetes Admissions	3	0.03%
Rate of Uncontrolled Diabetes	0.02%	
Diabetes L/E Amputations Admissions	4	0.03%
Rate of Diabetes L/E Amputations Admissions	0.03%	



There were 3 avoidable hospital admissions for Gulf County residents due to uncontrolled diabetes, for a rate of 0.02%, lower than the State wide rate was 0.03%.

Source (for all graphs on this page): Broward Regional Health Planning Council, Hospital Inpatient & Emergency Department Analytical System, [healthdata.brhpc.org](http://healthdata.brhpc.org)

There were 4 avoidable hospital admissions for Gulf County residents due to lower extremity (L/E) amputations due to diabetes, for a rate of 0.03%, the same as the State wide rate.



There were 24 avoidable hospital admissions for Gulf County residents due to long-term complications of diabetes, for a rate of 0.17%, higher than the State wide rate of 0.12%.

The Broward Regional Health Planning Council Health Data Warehouse Chronic Disease data section reports that in 2009 there were 1,779 hospital admissions for Gulf County residents due to six conditions tracked.

<b>Disease</b>	<b>Number</b>
Diabetes	486
Asthma	125
Congestive Heart Failure	324
Hypertension	829
AIDS	9
Sickle Cell	6
Total:	1,779

The GCHD Survey queried compliance with medication use, and 51% of respondents reporting not taking prescribed medications to control chronic diseases.

## PREVENTIVE CARE

### Obesity

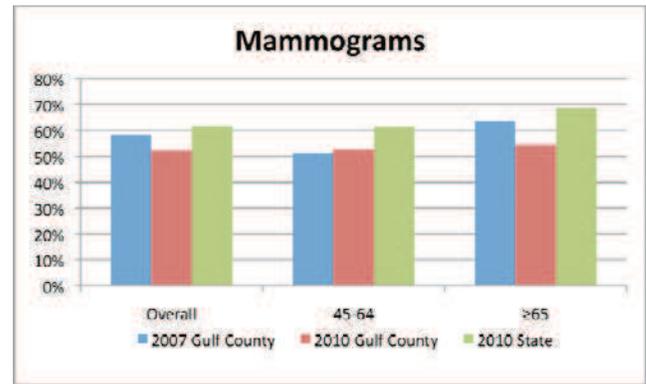
Gulf County ranks in the 4th Quartile for percent of residents who report being overweight, with 39.5% of residents reporting this status, compared to 38% State wide. The percent reporting being obese is 26.3%; slightly higher than State wide which places Gulf County in the 3rd Quartile.

Overweight Status	Percent	Quartile	Percent
Percent Adults Who Are Overweight	39.5%	4	38.0%
Percent Adults Who Are Obese	26.3%	3	24.1%

Source: Florida Charts, Chronic Disease Profile

## Cancer Screening

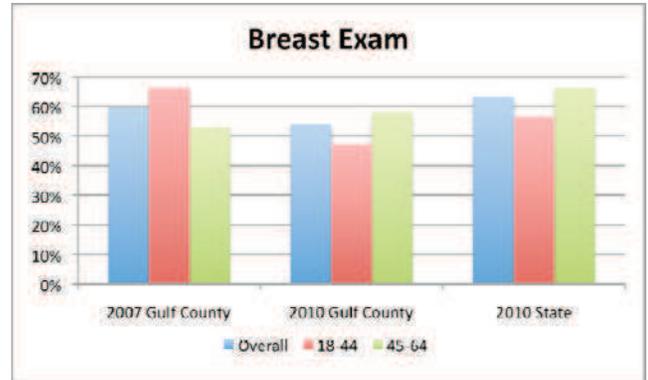
The Gulf County overall mammogram rate was 90% the State rate in 2007, and decreased to 84% the State rate in 2010, for a 3rd Quartile rank. In the 45-64 age group, 2007 mammogram screening occurred at 78% the State rate, and increased to 86% in 2010 for a 3rd Quartile rank. In the 65 and older age group, 2007 mammogram screening occurred at 91% the State rate, and decreased to 79% the State rate in 2010 for a 4th Quartile rank.



Population		2007 Gulf County	2007 State	2007 Gulf Percent of State	2010 Gulf County	2010 State	2010 Gulf Percent of State
Age Group	45-64	51.1%	65.7%	78%	52.8%	3	61.5%
	> 64	63.6%	70.0%	91%	54.6%	4	68.8%

Source: BRFSS Data Report-2007 and 2010, Quartile Not Available for 18-44 in Florida Charts as of 8/23/11

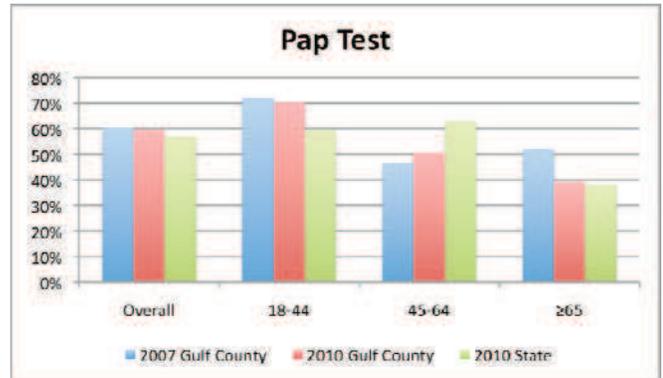
The Gulf County overall clinical breast exam was 90% the State rate in 2007, and decreased to 85% the State rate in 2010, for a 4th Quartile rank. In the 18-44 age group, 2007 clinical breast exam screening occurred at 100% the State rate, and decreased to 84% in 2010. Quartile rank for the 18-44 age group was not available. In the 45-64 age group, 2007 clinical breast exam screening occurred at 74% the State rate, and increased to 88% in 2010, for a 3rd Quartile rank. In the 65 and older age group, 2007 clinical breast exam screening occurred at 93% the State rate, and decreased to 76% the State rate in 2010 for a 4th Quartile rank.



Population		2007 Gulf County	2007 State	2007 Gulf Percent of State	2010 Gulf County	2010 State	2010 Gulf Percent of State
All	Overall	59.8%	66.5%	90%	54.0%	4	63.2%
Age Group	18-44	66.2%	66.3%	100%	47.3%	N/A	56.6%
	45-64	53.0%	71.5%	74%	58.1%	3	66.4%
	> 64	59.9%	64.4%	93%	45.3%	4	59.9%

Source: Florida Department of Health, Division of Disease Control, Bureau of Epidemiology, Chronic Disease Epidemiology Section, 2007 BRFSS Report and 2010 BRFSS Report

The Gulf County overall Pap test rate was 93% the State rate in 2007, and increased to 104% the State rate in 2010, for a 2<sup>nd</sup> Quartile rank.

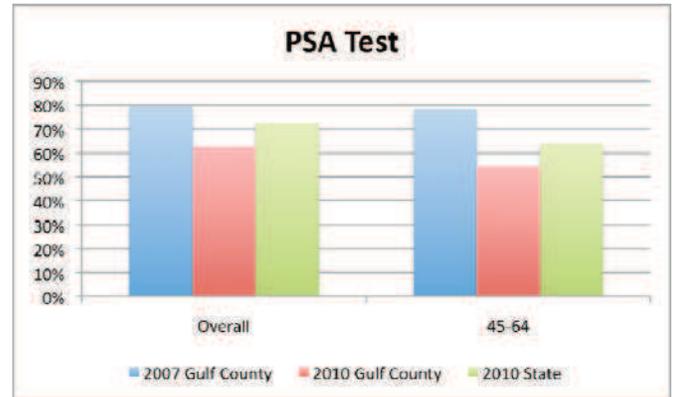


In the 18-44 age group, 2007 Pap screening occurred at 104% the State rate, and increased to 118% in 2010. Quartile rank for the 18-44 age group was not available. In the 45-64 age group, 2007 Pap screening occurred at 70% the State rate, and increased to 81% in 2010, for a 4th Quartile rank. In the 65 and older age group, 2007 Pap screening occurred at 108% the State rate, and increased to 103% the State rate in 2010. Quartile rank for the 18-44 age group was not available.

Population		2007 Gulf County	2007 State	2007 Gulf Percent of State	2010 Gulf County	2010 Gulf Quartile	2010 State	2010 Gulf Percent of State
All	Overall	60.3%	64.8%	93%	59.5%	2	57.1%	104%
Age Group	18-44	72.1%	69.1%	104%	70.1%	N/A	59.3%	118%
	45-64	46.7%	66.4%	70%	50.8%	4	63.0%	81%
	> 64	51.8%	48.0%	108%	39.3%	N/A	38.2%	103%

Source: Florida Department of Health, Division of Disease Control, Bureau of Epidemiology, Chronic Disease Epidemiology Section, 2007 BRFSS Report and 2010 BRFSS Report

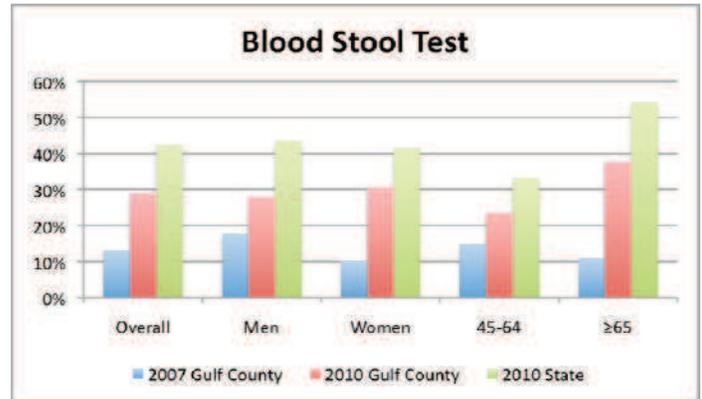
The Gulf County PSA test rates were 110% the State rate in 2007, and decreased to 86% the State rate in 2010, for a 4th Quartile rank. In the 45-64 age group, 2007 PSA screening occurred at 122% the State rate, and decreased to 85% in 2010, for a 4th Quartile rank. In the 65 and older age group, 2007 PSA screening occurred at 101% the State rate, and decreased to 100% the State rate in 2010 for a 2<sup>nd</sup> Quartile rank.



Population		2007 Gulf County	2007 State	2007 Gulf Percent of State	2010 Gulf County	2010 Gulf Quartile	2010 State	2010 Gulf Percent of State
All	Overall	79.5%	72.3%	110%	62.7%	4	72.6%	86%
Age Group	45-64	78.4%	64.5%	122%	54.5%	4	63.9%	85%
	> 64	82.1%	81.4%	101%	84.6%	2	84.5%	100%

Source: Florida Department of Health, Division of Disease Control, Bureau of Epidemiology, Chronic Disease Epidemiology Section, 2007 BRFSS Report and 2010 BRFSS Report

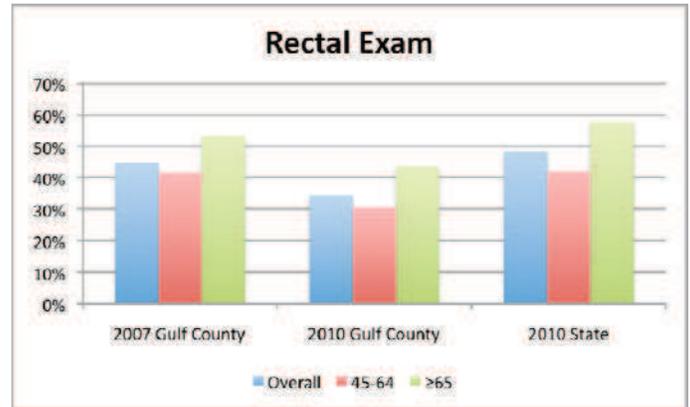
In Gulf County, the overall screening rate for blood stool test was 63% the State rate in 2007, and increased to 68% the State rate in 2010, for a 4th Quartile rank. For men, 2007 blood stool test screening occurred at 75% the State rate, and decreased to 64% in 2010, for a 4th Quartile rank. For women, 2007 blood stool test screening occurred at 54% the State rate, and increased to 73% the State rate in 2010 for a 4th Quartile rank. In the 45-64 age group, 2007 blood stool test screening occurred at 97% the State rate, and decreased to 71% in 2010, for a 4th Quartile rank. In the 65 and older age group, 2007 blood stool test screening occurred at 41% the State rate, and increased to 70% the State rate in 2010 for a 4th Quartile rank.



Population		2007 Gulf County	2007 State	2007 Gulf Percent of State	2010 Gulf County	2010 Gulf Quartile	2010 State	2010 Gulf Percent of State
All	Overall	13.4%	21.2%	63%	29.0%	4	42.5%	68%
Sex	Men	17.8%	23.7%	75%	27.9%	4	43.5%	64%
	Women	10.3%	19.1%	54%	30.6%	4	41.7%	73%
Age Group	45-64	15.1%	15.6%	97%	23.6%	4	33.2%	71%
	> 64	11.0%	27.1%	41%	37.8%	4	54.3%	70%

Source: Florida Department of Health, Division of Disease Control, Bureau of Epidemiology, Chronic Disease Epidemiology Section, 2007 BRFSS Report and 2010 BRFSS Report

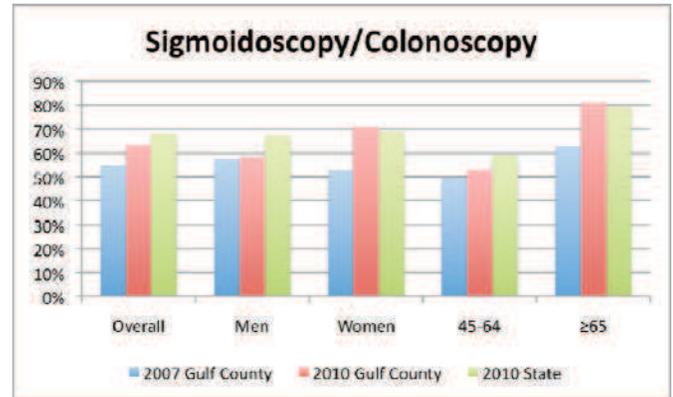
The Gulf County digital rectal exam rates for men was 80% the State rate in 2007, and decreased to 48.5% the State rate in 2010, for a 4th Quartile rank. In the 45-64 age group, 2007 digital rectal exam screening occurred at 83% the State rate, and decreased to 73% in 2010, for a 4th Quartile rank. In the 65 and older age group, 2007 digital rectal exam screening occurred at 84% the State rate, and decreased to 76% the State rate in 2010 for a 4th Quartile rank.



Population		2007 Gulf County	2007 State	2007 Gulf Percent of State	2010 Gulf County	2010 Gulf Quartile	2010 State	2010 Gulf Percent of State
All	Overall	44.8%	56.3%	80%	34.3%	4	48.5%	71%
Age Group	45-64	41.7%	50.1%	83%	30.4%	4	41.9%	73%
	> 64	53.4%	63.4%	84%	43.6%	4	57.7%	76%

Source: Florida Department of Health, Division of Disease Control, Bureau of Epidemiology, Chronic Disease Epidemiology Section, 2007 BRFSS Report and 2010 BRFSS Report

The Gulf County percent of men and women receiving colonoscopy or sigmoidoscopy in the past five years was 102% the State rate in 2007, and decreased to 93% the State rate in 2010, for a 3rd Quartile rank. For men, 2007 colonoscopy or sigmoidoscopy screening occurred at 103% the State rate, and decreased to 86% in 2010, for a 4th Quartile rank. For women, 2007 colonoscopy or sigmoidoscopy screening occurred at 101% the State rate, and increased to 103% the State rate in 2010 for a 2nd Quartile rank.



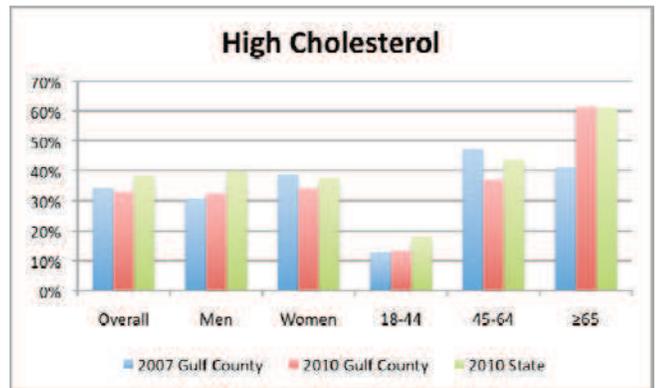
In the 45-64 age group, 2007 colonoscopy or sigmoidoscopy screening occurred at 106% the State rate, and decreased to 89% in 2010, for a 4th Quartile rank. In the 65 and older age group, 2007 colonoscopy or sigmoidoscopy screening occurred at 102% the State rate, and stayed the same at 102% the State rate in 2010 for a 2<sup>nd</sup> Quartile rank.

Population		2007 Gulf County	2007 State	2007 Gulf Percent of State	2010 Gulf County	2010 Gulf Quartile	2010 State	2010 Gulf Percent of State
All	Overall	54.8%	53.7%	102%	63.4%	3	68.2%	93%
Sex	Men	57.6%	55.7%	103%	58.2%	4	67.6%	86%
	Women	52.7%	52.1%	101%	71.1%	2	68.8%	103%
Age Group	45-64	49.3%	46.6%	106%	52.7%	4	59.4%	89%
	> 64	62.8%	61.4%	102%	80.9%	2	79.4%	102%

Source: Florida Department of Health, Division of Disease Control, Bureau of Epidemiology, Chronic Disease Epidemiology Section, 2007 BRFSS Report and 2010 BRFSS Report

## Cholesterol Preventive Care

The percent of Gulf County residents reporting a diagnosis of high blood cholesterol was 93% the State rate in 2007, and decreased to 86% the State rate in 2010. For men, 2007 high blood cholesterol diagnosis occurred at 79% the State rate, and increased to 82% in 2010. For women, 2007 high blood cholesterol diagnosis occurred at 110% the State rate, and decreased to 91% the State rate in 2010.



In the 18-44 age group, 2007 high blood cholesterol diagnosis occurred at 56% the State rate, and increased to 75% in 2010. In the 45-64 age group, 2007 high blood cholesterol diagnosis occurred at 111% the State rate, and decreased to 84% in 2010. In the 65 and older age group, 2007 high blood cholesterol diagnosis occurred at 83% the State rate, and increased to 101% the State rate in 2010.

Population		2007 Gulf County	2007 State	2007 Gulf Percent of State	2010 Gulf County	2010 Gulf Quartile	2010 State	2010 Gulf Percent of State
All	Overall	34.4%	37.1%	93%	33.1%	N/A	38.6%	86%
Sex	Men	30.7%	38.9%	79%	32.5%	N/A	39.7%	82%
	Women	38.9%	35.4%	110%	34.0%	N/A	37.5%	91%
Age Group	18-44	12.8%	23.0%	56%	13.4%	N/A	17.9%	75%
	45-64	47.3%	42.8%	111%	36.8%	N/A	43.7%	84%
	> 64	41.1%	49.8%	83%	61.5%	N/A	61.1%	101%

Source: Florida Department of Health, Division of Disease Control, Bureau of Epidemiology, Chronic Disease Epidemiology Section, 2007 BRFSS Report and 2010 BRFSS Report

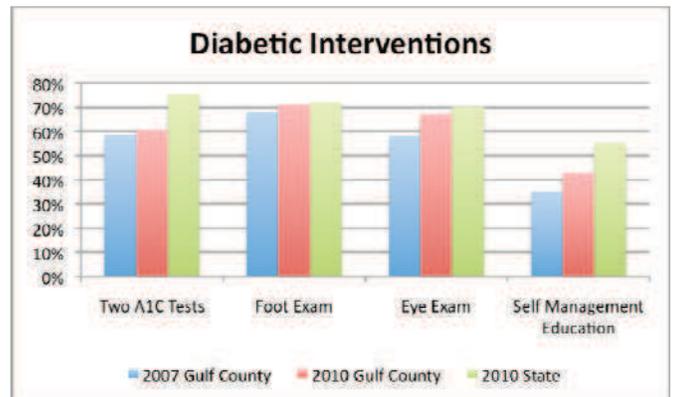
## Diabetes Preventive Care

Of those with a diagnosis of diabetes in Gulf County in 2007, 58.5% had two A1C tests in the past year, which was a rate 82% the State wide rate. In 2010, the County percent increased to 60.6%, which is a rate 80% the State wide rate for a 4th Quartile rank.

In 2007, 68% had foot exam screenings in the past year, which was a rate 90% the State wide rate. In 2010, the County percent increased to 70.9%, which is a rate 98% the State wide rate for a 2nd Quartile rank.

In 2007, 58.1% had eye exam screenings in the past year, which was a rate 75% the State wide rate. In 2010, the County percent increased to 67.1%, which is a rate 96% the State wide rate for a 3rd Quartile rank.

In 2007, 35.2% of diabetic patients had self- management education, a rate that was 68% the State wide rate. In 2010, the County percent increased to 42.7%, which is a rate 77% the State wide rate for a 4th Quartile rank.



Type of Intervention	2007 Gulf County	2007 State	2007 Gulf Percent of State	2010 Gulf County	2010 Gulf Quartile	2010 State	2010 Gulf Percent of State
Two A1C Tests in the Past Year	58.5%	71.2%	82%	60.6%	4	75.6%	80%
Annual Foot Exam	68.0%	75.6%	90%	70.9%	2	72.2%	98%
Annual Eye Exam	58.1%	77.4%	75%	67.1%	3	70.2%	96%
Ever Had Diabetes Self-Management Education	35.2%	51.4%	68%	42.7%	4	55.1%	77%

Source: BRFSS Data Report-2007 and 2010

## Awareness of Preventive Care Services

The GCHD Survey included questions about participant's awareness of preventive care resources in Gulf County. Of those that participated in the survey, 80% of respondents do know where to go for to get information, but only 50% are aware of community programs for preventive care.

Awareness/Information	Percent Agree	Percent Disagree
I know where to go to get information on health care and staying healthy.	80%	20%
I know about programs in my community that can help me become healthier.	50%	50%

## Preventive Care Summary

Out of 34 preventive care criteria surveyed, 25 had Quartile rankings. Of these 25, Gulf County ranked in the 2nd Quartile for 5, had a 3rd Quartile rank in 5, and a 4th Quartile rank in 15.

Criteria	Population	2010 Quartile	
Women ≥18 Years Who Had a Pap Test in the Past Year	Overall	2	5
Men ≥50 Years Who Received a PSA Test in the Past Year	≥65	2	
Adults ≥50 Years Who Received a Sigmoidoscopy or Colonoscopy in the Past 5 Years	Women	2	
Adults ≥50 Years Who Received a Sigmoidoscopy or Colonoscopy in the Past 5 Years	≥65	2	
Annual Foot Exam	Adult Diabetics	2	
Women ≥40 Years Who Received a Mammogram in the Past Year	Overall	3	5
Women ≥40 Years Who Received a Mammogram in the Past Year	45-64	3	
Women ≥18 Years Who Had a Clinical Breast Exam in the Past Year	45-64	3	
Adults ≥50 Years Who Received a Sigmoidoscopy or Colonoscopy in the Past 5 Years	Overall	3	
Annual Eye Exam	Adult Diabetics	3	
Women ≥40 Years Who Received a Mammogram in the Past Year	≥65	4	15
Women ≥18 Years Who Had a Clinical Breast Exam in the Past Year	Overall	4	
Women ≥18 Years Who Had a Clinical Breast Exam in the Past Year	≥65	4	
Women ≥18 Years Who Had a Pap Test in the Past Year	45-64	4	
Men ≥50 Years Who Received a PSA Test in the Past Year	Overall	4	
Men ≥50 Years Who Received a PSA Test in the Past Year	45-64	4	
Adults ≥50 Years Who Received a Sigmoidoscopy or Colonoscopy in the Past 5 Years	Men	4	
Adults ≥50 Years Who Received a Sigmoidoscopy or Colonoscopy in the Past 5 Years	45-64	4	
Two A1C Tests in the Past Year	Adult Diabetics	4	
Ever Had Diabetes Self Management Education	Adult Diabetics	4	
Adults ≥50 Years Who Received a Blood Stool Test in the Past Year	Overall	4	
Adults ≥50 Years Who Received a Blood Stool Test in the Past Year	Men	4	
Adults ≥50 Years Who Received a Blood Stool Test in the Past Year	Women	4	
Adults ≥50 Years Who Received a Blood Stool Test in the Past Year	45-64	4	
Adults ≥50 Years Who Received a Blood Stool Test in the Past Year	≥65	4	

Of the 9 preventive care criteria without a Quartile rank, Gulf County had a percent of population screened better than State wide in 3 areas, and worse than Statewide in 6 areas.

<b>2010 Percent State Rate (Better Than Statewide)</b>	<b>Population</b>	<b>Percent of State</b>	<b>Total Number</b>
Women ≥18 Years Who Had a Pap Test in the Past Year	18-44	118%	3
Women ≥18 Years Who Had a Pap Test in the Past Year	≥65	103%	
Adults Who Have Diagnosed High Blood Cholesterol	≥65	101%	
<b>2010 Percent State Rate (Worse Than Statewide)</b>	<b>Population</b>	<b>Percent of State</b>	<b>Total Number</b>
Adults Who Have Diagnosed High Blood Cholesterol	Women	91%	6
Adults Who Have Diagnosed High Blood Cholesterol	Overall	86%	
Adults Who Have Diagnosed High Blood Cholesterol	45-64	84%	
Adults Who Have Diagnosed High Blood Cholesterol	Men	82%	
Adults Who Have Diagnosed High Blood Cholesterol	18-44	75%	
Women ≥18 Years Who Had a Clinical Breast Exam in the Past Year	18-44	84%	

## COMMUNICABLE DISEASE

Public health is the art and science of safeguarding and improving community health through organized community effort involving prevention of disease, control of communicable disease, application of sanitary measures, health education and monitoring of environmental hazards.

The role of Public Health Departments in the area of communicable diseases is to track and investigate communitywide hazards and health problems, to lead the private sector in the implementation of disease prevention, to assist individuals with accessing preventive care, and when necessary, to directly provide those preventive services, including education. The Public Health Department cannot be solely responsible for the prevention and control of communicable disease. These efforts require a community effort with participation by the private sector and school health.

For the three-year period between 2007 to 2009, Gulf County was in the 1st Quartile of all Florida counties for four out of six communicable disease indicators. The incidence of tuberculosis and gonorrhea cases placed Gulf County in the 2nd Quartile, and the incidence of syphilis ranked in the 3rd Quartile.

Disease	Gulf County		State
	Three-Year Rate per 100,000	Quartile	Three-Year Rate per 100,000
Vaccine Preventable Diseases	0	1	3.8
HIV Cases	7.9	1	33.2
AIDS Cases	2.0	1	29.9
Tuberculosis Cases	2.0	2	4.9
Chlamydia Cases	221.0	1	357.3
Gonorrhea Cases	76.9	2	119.7
Infectious Syphilis Cases	2.0	3	5.3

## Bacterial STDs

Another communicable disease category worth noting is the rate of bacterial STDs for women age 15-34. This data is listed in the Florida Charts County State Profile, which does not assign Quartile rankings. The rate in Gulf County for the 2007-2009 period has nearly doubled from prior periods. The rate is computed per 100,000 females age 15-34.

	Three Year Time Period			Percent Increase 2004-2006 to 2007-2009
	2001-2003	2004-2006	2007-2009	
Gulf County	1,279.1	1,122.6	2,223.7	98.1%
Florida	1,978.0	1,991.3	2,499.2	25.5%

Source: Florida Charts, County State Profile

## Immunizations

Gulf County ranks in the 1st Quartile in the percent of kindergarten age children immunized with 99.3% — higher than State wide percentage of 91.5%. *Kids Count* data shows that Gulf County has had a consistently high rate of immunization for all three years.

Immunization Levels in Gulf County Kindergarten		
2006	2007	2008
97.6%	100%	99.2%

Source: The Annie E. Casey Foundation, KIDS COUNT Data Center, [datacenter.kidscount.org](http://datacenter.kidscount.org)

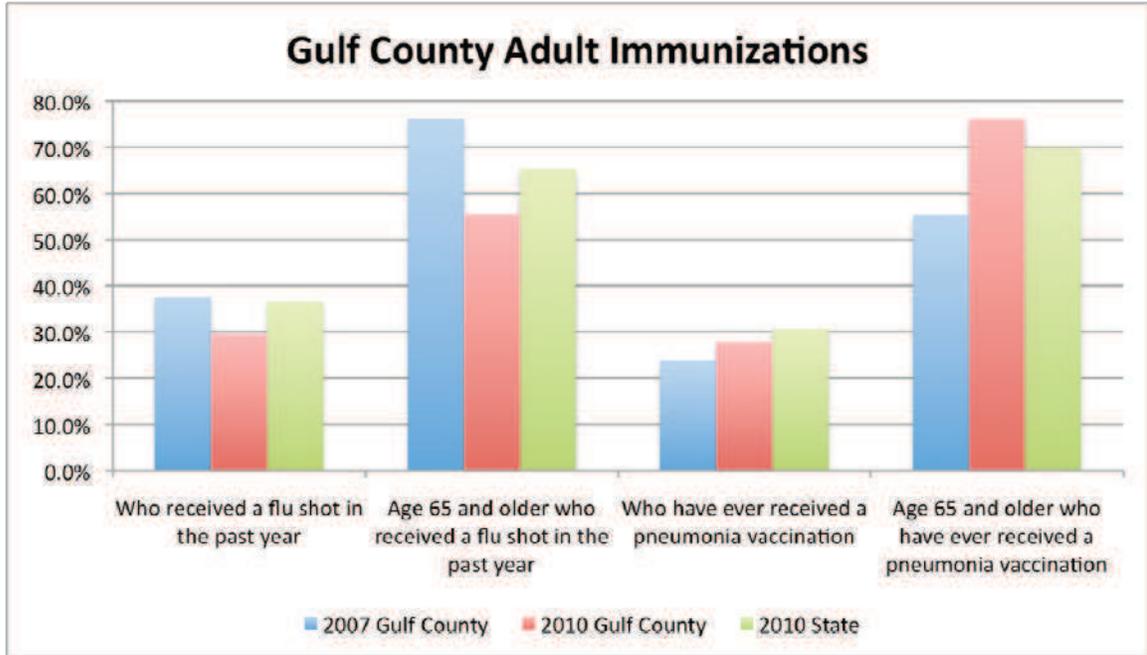
In the area of adult immunizations, Gulf County ranked in the 1st Quartile for adults over 65 who have received flu shots in 2007. However, of those adults who did not receive a flu shot because of cost or availability, the County is in the 4th Quartile. The second 4th Quartile ranking is for elderly who have received pneumonia vaccination. The percent of all adults and elderly receiving pneumonia vaccinations is lower than Statewide.

In the 2010 report, there were the following changes from 2007:

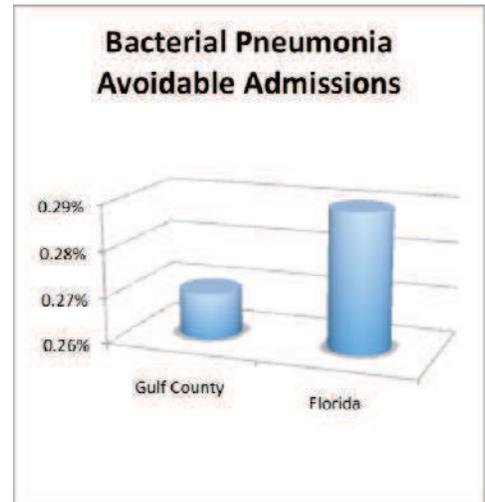
- The Gulf County percent of all adults who received a flu shot in the past year decreased 7.9%, while the State rate increased 3.8%
- The Gulf County percent of adults 65 and older who received a flu shot in the past year decreased 20.7%, while the State rate increased 0.7%.
- The Gulf County percent of all adults who ever received a pneumonia vaccination increased 4.0%, while the State rate increased 4.7% The Gulf County percent of adults 65 and older who received a pneumonia vaccination increased 20.7%, while the State rate increased 6.9%

Percent of Adults:	2007 Gulf County	2007 Quartile	2007 State	2010 Gulf County	2010 State	2007-2010 Gulf Change	2007-2010 State Change
Who received a flu shot in the past year	37.5%	2	32.7%	29.6%	36.5%	-7.9%	3.8%
Age 65 and older who received a flu shot in the past year	76.1%	1	64.6%	55.4%	65.3%	-20.7%	0.7%
In high-risk groups who received a flu shot in the past year	48.3%	2	44.6%	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Who did not receive a flu shot in the past year because of cost or availability issues	15.1%	4	11.1%	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Who have ever received a pneumonia vaccination	23.7%	3	25.9%	27.7%	30.6%	4.0%	4.7%
Age 65 and older who have ever received a pneumonia vaccination	55.3%	4	63.0%	76.0%	69.9%	20.7%	6.9%
In high-risk groups who have ever received a pneumonia vaccination	44.9%	2	37.0%	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A

Source: BRFSS 2007, 2010



The *Broward Regional Health Planning Council Health Data Warehouse PQI/Avoidable Admission* data section reports that in 2009 there were 37 avoidable hospital admissions for Gulf County residents due to bacterial pneumonia, for a rate of 0.27%, slightly lower than the State wide rate of 0.29%.



## MATERNAL AND CHILD HEALTH

### Births

There were 130 births to Gulf County residents in 2005 and 138 births in 2009, reported in Florida Charts Birth Query System data. There was a three-year average of 139 births per year in Gulf County, resulting in a rate per 100,000 total population lower than State wide.

Total Live Births per 100,000 Total Population	Average Number of Births	Three-Year Rate
Gulf County	139	822.7
Florida	230,643	1,227.6

Source: Florida Charts: County Birth Query System

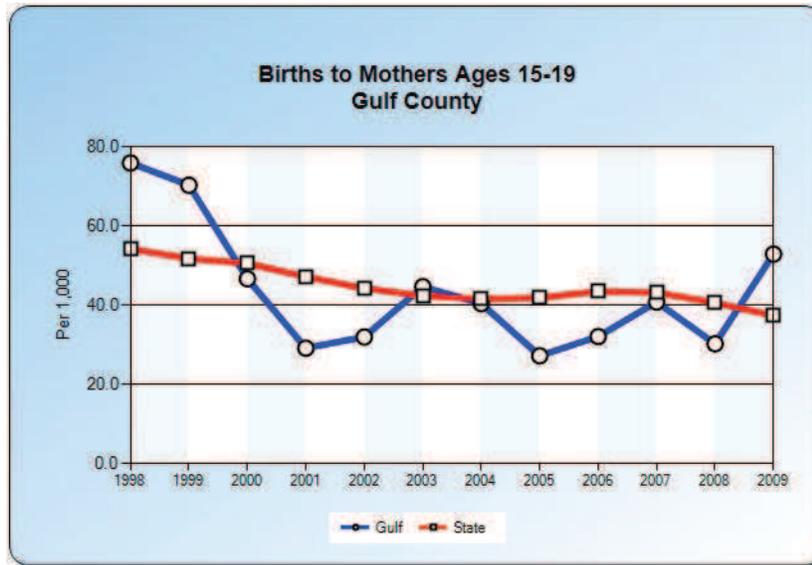
Gulf County ranks in the 3rd Quartile for the number of births covered by Medicaid, and in the first Quartile for births to uninsured women and births covered by emergency Medicaid for the period 2007-2009.

Indicator	County Quartile	County Number	County Rate	State Rate
Births covered by emergency Medicaid	1	<2	0.2%	8.30%
Births covered by Medicaid	3	88	63.5%	44.8%
Births to uninsured women	1	2	1.4%	10.40%

Rate: Percent of Births

Source: Florida Charts: Pregnancy and Young Child Profile

Gulf County ranks in the 2nd Quartile for births to unwed mothers, with a percent lower than Statewide. Gulf County also ranks in the 2nd Quartile for the percent of births to mothers age 15-19. There were no births to mothers age 14 and younger. The number of births to mothers aged 15-19 has improved over the past 12 years, although there was a significant increase from the 14 births in 2008 to 24 in 2009.



Note - The line graph shows the annual rate per 1,000 population.

Indicator, per 1,000 Population	Gulf County	Quartile	State
Births to Mothers ages 15-44	60.4	1	64.9
Births to Mothers ages 10-14	0	1	0.6
Births to Mothers ages 15-19	41.3	2	40.4
Percent Births to Unwed Mothers	44.6	2	46.9

Source: Florida Charts: Pregnancy and Young Child Profile

## Unsafe Sex

In the County Health Rankings, “unsafe sex” is intended to reflect sexual behavior that increases the risk of such adverse outcomes as unintended pregnancy and transmission of sexually transmitted infections. By measuring teen births and chlamydia incidence rates, the County Health Rankings provides communities with a sense of the level of risky sexual behavior in their county compared to other counties in the state. Gulf County is ranked as number 13 out of 67 Florida counties.

## Prenatal Care

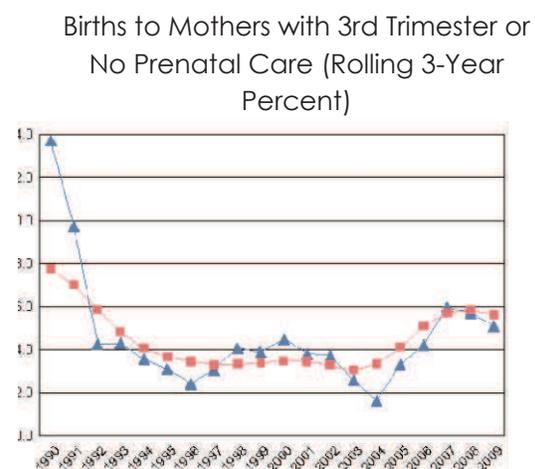
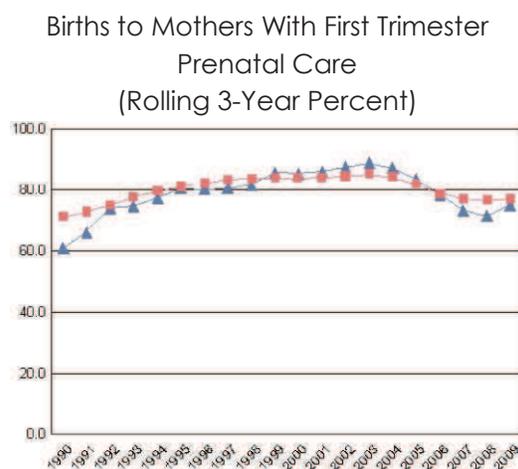
For the period 2007-2009, Gulf County was ranked in the 2<sup>nd</sup> Quartile for Births With First Trimester Care.

Prenatal Care	Three Year Percent 2007-2009		
	County Percent	County Quartile	State Percent
Births with First Trimester Prenatal Care	75.0%	2	77.0%
Births with 3 <sup>rd</sup> Trimester or No Prenatal Care	5.1%	2	5.6%

Rate Percent of births with known PNC status

Source: Florida Charts: County Health Profile

Gulf County was also ranked in the 2<sup>nd</sup> Quartile for Births with 3<sup>rd</sup> Trimester or no Prenatal Care. The line graphs illustrate the trends in these indicators.



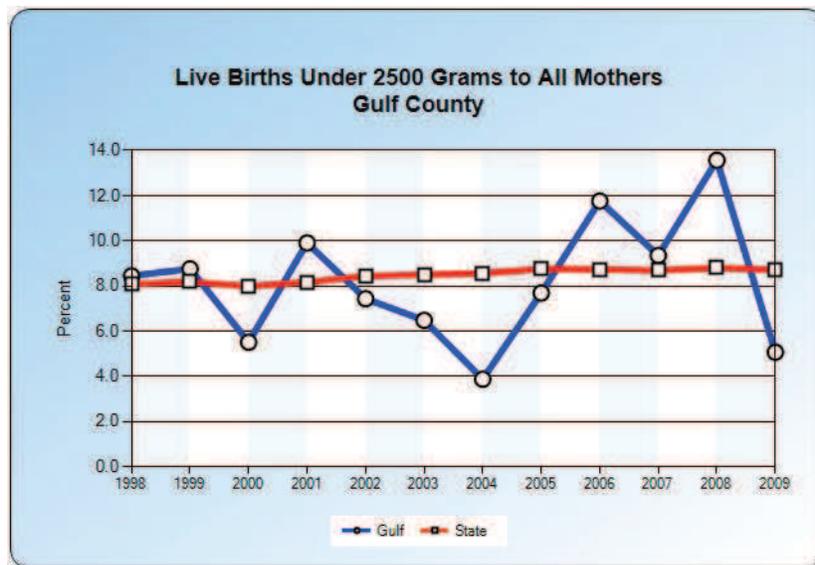
## Low Birth Weight

For the period 2007-2009, Gulf County was ranked in the 4th Quartile for both Very Low and Low Birth Weight Births. The percent of births are for each indicator are higher the State percents.

Birth Weight	Gulf County	Quartile	State
< 1500 Grams	2.4%	4	1.6%
<2500 Grams	9.4%	4	8.7%

Source: Florida Charts: County Health Profile

The percent of Low Weight Births was very low in 2004, peaked above the State rate for 2006 through 2008, then dropped in 2009. The incidence of Low Weight Births decreased from 19 in 2008 to 7 in 2009. Gulf County ranks in the 4th Quartile for Low Birth Weight Births.



Source: Florida Charts: County Health Profile

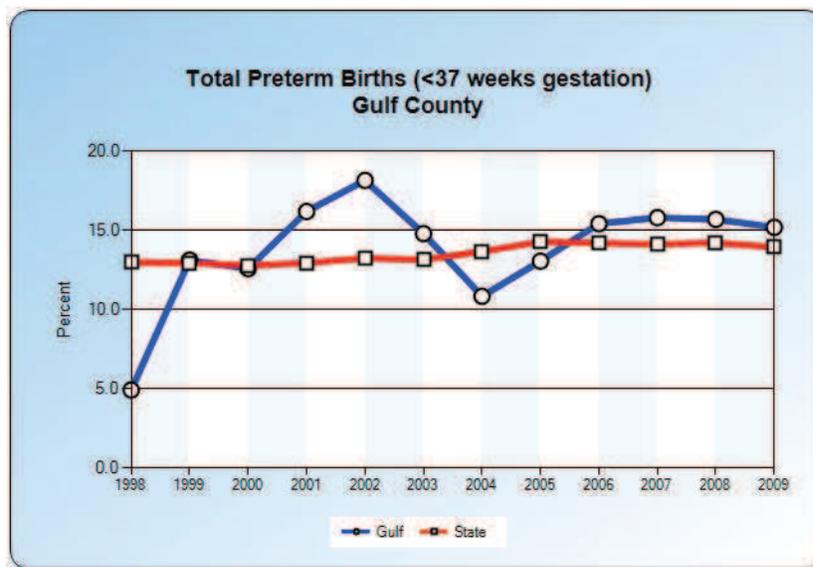
The Broward Regional Health Planning Council Health Data Warehouse PQI/Avoidable Admission data section reports that in 2009 there were 139 newborn/neonate in-hospital live births to Gulf County residents. Of those 7, or 5.04%, were preventable low-birth weight admissions, compared to 6.13% State wide.

Indicator	Gulf County	Florida
All Newborn Admissions	139	174,053
Preventable Low Birth Weight Admissions	7	10,662
Percent Preventable LBW Admissions	5.04%	6.13%

Source: Broward Regional Health Planning Council, Hospital Inpatient & Emergency Department Analytical System, [healthdata.brhpc.org](http://healthdata.brhpc.org)

### Premature Births

The percent of Premature Births increased from 2004 to 2006, and has been steady since then. The incidence of Premature Births increased from 14 in 2004 to 21 in 2006. Gulf County ranks in the 4th Quartile for Premature Births.



Source: Florida Charts: County Health Profile

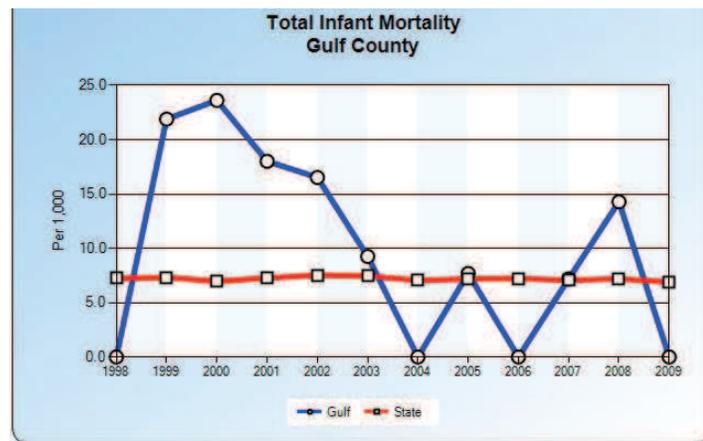
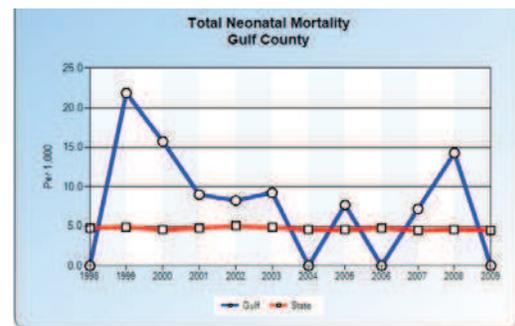
## Infant Mortality

Gulf County infant death Quartile rankings are 3, 4 and 1 for the years 2007 to 2009.

Indicator per 1,000 Population	County	Quartile	State
Infant Deaths (0-364 days)	7.2	3	7.1
Neonatal Deaths (0-27 days)	7.2	4	4.5
Postneonatal Deaths (28-364 days)	0	1	2.5

Source: Florida Charts, County Health Status Summary

Trend graphs illustrate the relationship between County and State rates. However, note that the number of events in all categories is between 0 and 2 for the past several years.



## BEHAVIORAL HEALTH

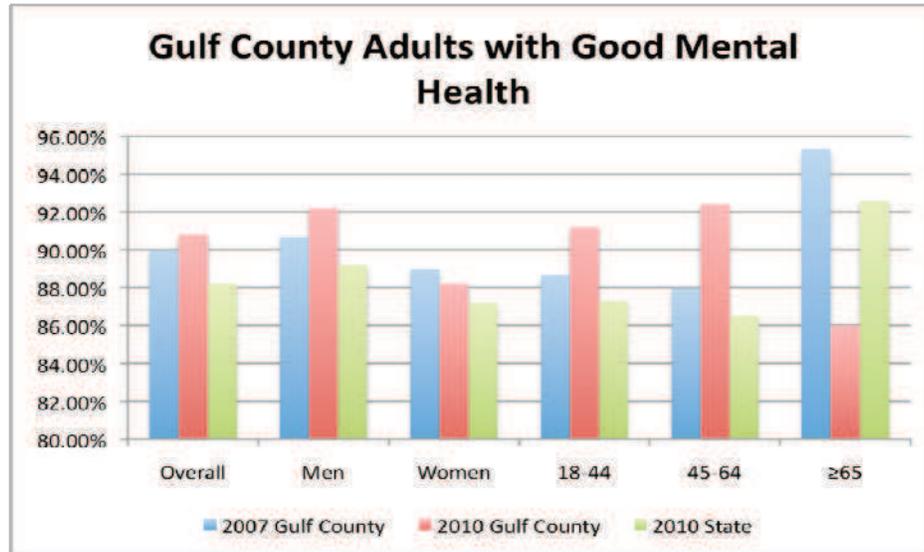
### Perceived Mental Health

Gulf County residents reporting good mental health totaled 90.3%, compared to 88.2% Statewide, similar to the 2007 data, in which Gulf County was in the 2nd Quartile, as shown in Figure 53. In 2010, Gulf County was in the 1st Quartile.

Of those reporting good mental health, men had a higher percent than women, and those age 45-64 had the highest percent with age groups. All age groups increased in the percent reporting good mental health, except the group age 65 and older, which in 2007 was 95.3%, and in 2010 was 86.0%. The 2010 County rate is the only age group lower than the State rate.

Population		2007 Gulf County	2007 State	2007 Gulf Percent of State	2010 Gulf County	2010 State	2010 Gulf Percent of State
All	Overall	90.00%	90.30%	100%	90.8%	88.2%	103%
Sex	Men	90.70%	91.90%	99%	92.2%	89.2%	103%
	Women	89.00%	88.70%	100%	88.2%	87.2%	101%
Age Group	18-44	88.70%	88.90%	100%	91.2%	87.3%	104%
	45-64	88.00%	89.20%	99%	92.4%	86.5%	107%
	> 64	95.30%	94.50%	101%	86.0%	92.8%	93%

Source: Florida Department of Health, Division of Disease Control, Bureau of Epidemiology, Chronic Disease Epidemiology Section, 2007 BRFSS Report and 2010 BRFSS Report



The Broward Regional Health Planning Council Health Data Warehouse includes The New York University (NYU) Emergency Department Algorithm for Emergency Department Classification, which reports emergency department utilization by primary diagnosis of injury, mental health problems, alcohol or substance abuse. These are visits that did not result in a hospital admission. The visits are also ranked by degree of severity. The NYU ED Algorithm data section reports that in 2009 there were 38 total ED visits for Gulf County residents due to psychiatric diagnoses.

Degree of Severity	Gulf County	Percent Psych Visits
Minor severity	2	5.3%
Low/moderate severity	4	10.5%
Moderate severity	7	18.4%
High severity/non-immediate	14	36.8%
High severity/immediate	11	28.9%
Total	38	100.0%

Source: Broward Regional Health Planning Council, Hospital Inpatient & Emergency Department Analytical System, [healthdata.brhpc.org](http://healthdata.brhpc.org)

## Alcohol Abuse

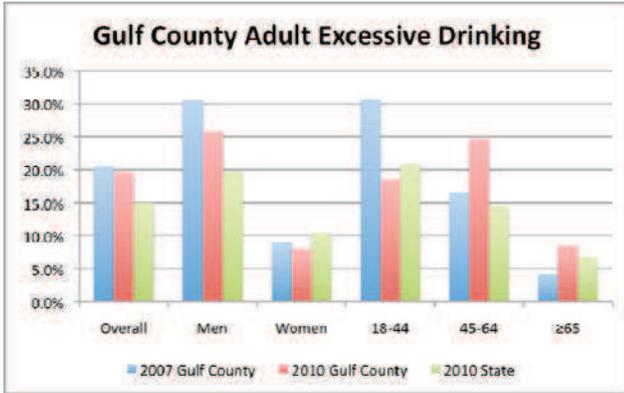
Gulf County ranks in the 4th Quartile in 2007 and continuing into 2010 for the percent of adults who engage in heavy or binge drinking. Within the County, 19.6% of the adult population reports this behavior, compared to 15% Statewide. Within the population reporting heavy/binge drinking, men report this behavior at more than three times the percent of Women. The percent of men reporting excessive drinking is 130% the State wide percent.

Population		2007 Gulf County	2007 State	2007 Gulf Percent of State	2010 Gulf County	2010 State	2010 Gulf Percent of State
All	Overall	20.5%	16.2%	127%	19.6%	4	15.0%
Sex	Men	30.5%	20.3%	150%	25.8%	4	19.8%
	Women	9.0%	12.4%	73%	8.0%	2	9.6%
Age Group	18-44	30.7%	21.6%	142%	18.6%	N/A	20.9%
	45-64	16.5%	14.6%	113%	24.6%	4	14.4%
	> 64	4.2%	7.7%	55%	8.5%	3	6.8%

*Source: Florida Department of Health, Division of Disease Control, Bureau of Epidemiology, Chronic Disease Epidemiology Section, 2007 BRFSS Report and 2010 BRFSS Report*

In 2007 the 18-44 age group reported the highest percent by age, as well as the highest percent compared to Statewide, at 142% the State wide rate. However, the 2007 incidence of 30.7% decreased to 18.6% in 2010, a rate that is 89% the State rate.

The 2010 report shows that the age group 45-64 is now the highest percent with 24.6% of the population with this drinking behavior. This percent places this age group at 171% the State rate.



The age group 65 and older had a percent of excessive drinking in 2007 of 4.2%. The percentage rate increased in 2010 to 8.5%, which was double the 2007 rate. The 2007 County percent was 55% the State rate, but in 2010, the County rate was 125% the State rate.

Source: Florida Charts: BRFSS as reported in Behavioral Risk Factor Data 2007 and 2010

Based only on this data, the greatest need for adult alcohol abuse education and intervention in Gulf County would be targeted to the male population age 18-44.

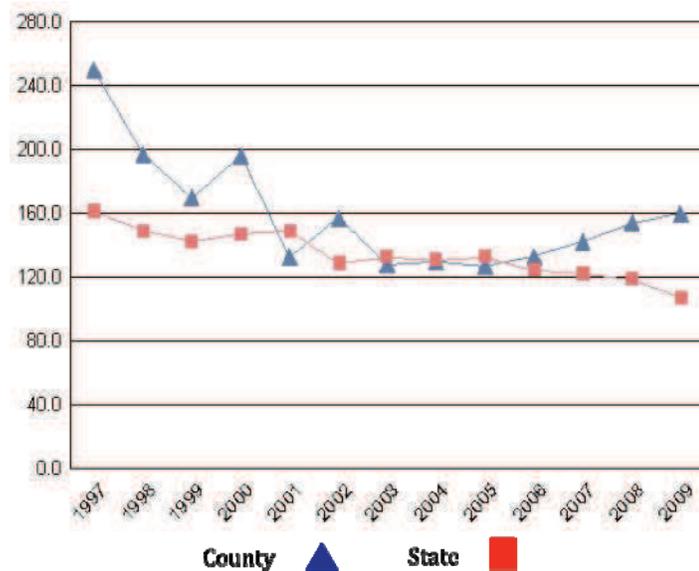
The Broward Regional Health Planning Council Health Data Warehouse NYU ED Algorithm data section reports that in 2009 there were 16 total ED visit for Gulf County residents due to alcohol or substance abuse. These are visits that did not result in a hospital admission.

Degree of Severity	Gulf County	Percent Visits
Minor severity	0	0.0%
Low/moderate severity	0	0.0%
Moderate severity	0	0.0%
High severity/non-High	4	25.0%
High	12	75.0%
Total	16	100.0%

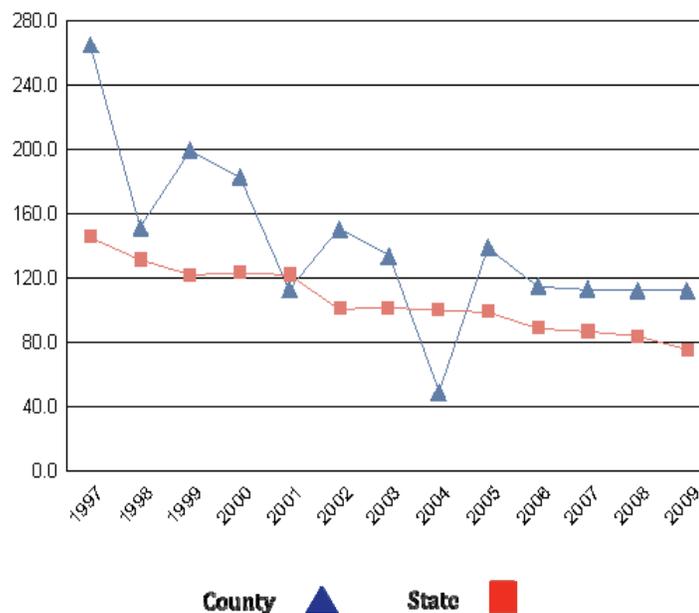
Source: Broward Regional Health Planning Council, Hospital Inpatient & Emergency Department Analytical System

## Drinking and Driving

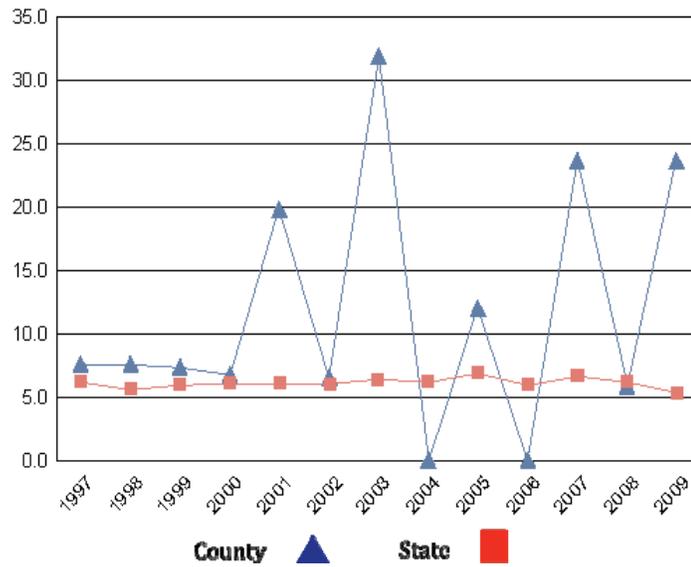
Gulf County had an average of 26 annual alcohol related vehicle crashes for the three-year period 2007-2009. This number of crashes resulted in a rate per 100,000 population that is 131% the State wide rate.



Gulf County had 19 annual alcohol related vehicle injuries in 2009, as shown in Figure 60. This number of injuries resulted in a rate per 100,000 population that is 150% the State wide rate.



Gulf County had 4 alcohol related vehicle deaths in 2009. This number of injuries resulted in a rate per 100,000 population that is 447% the State wide rate. Gulf County has the fourth highest rate in the State.



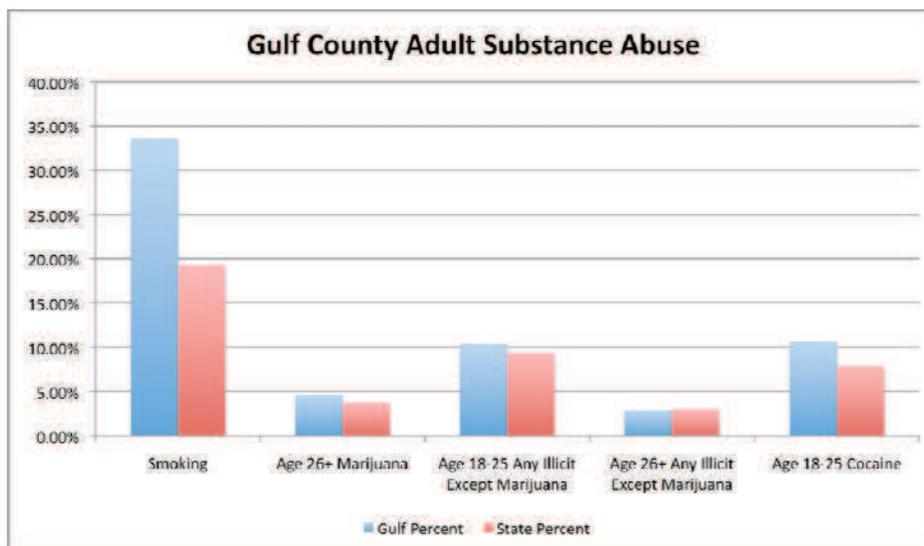
## Adult Substance Abuse

Gulf County adults report current smoking at a rate 174.1% the State rate, while marijuana use is 121.1% the State rate. In the 18-25 age group, the use of illicit drugs other than marijuana is reported at 110.6% State wide use. However, this use drops somewhat for the age group 26 and older to 96.7% the State rate.

Adult Use	Gulf Percent	Gulf Percent of State	State Percent
Current Smoker	33.6%	174.1%	19.3%
Age 26+ Past Month Marijuana	4.6%	121.1%	3.8%
Age 18-25 Past Month Any Illicit Except Marijuana	10.4%	110.6%	9.4%
Age 26+ Any Illicit Except Marijuana	2.9%	96.7%	3.0%
Age 18-25 Cocaine	10.6%	134.2%	7.9%

Source: University of Miami, State Epidemiology Workgroup, County Data reports (last update June, 2009)

Cocaine use in the Gulf County adult population is reported at 134.2% the State rate.



## Student Substance Abuse

The Florida Department of Children & Families has published the 2010 Florida Youth Substance Abuse Survey. This Survey is available on the web site and County level reports are downloadable in PDF format.

The following table presents data totals for middle and high school students. In this presentation, Franklin and Gulf Counties are both included where there are some very interesting differences. The indicators for which one or the other Counties had reported incidence greater than 150% the State wide rate are highlighted in gray.

Drugs	Franklin County Percent	Franklin Percent of State	Florida Percent	Gulf County Percent	Gulf Percent of State
Alcohol	36.9	128%	28.8	39.9	139%
Binge Drinking	19.0	135%	14.1	19.0	135%
Cigarettes	15.0	170%	8.8	17.5	199%
Marijuana or Hashish	19.3	148%	13.0	21.7	167%
Inhalants	4.8	150%	3.2	4.9	153%
Club Drugs*	0.5	38%	1.3	3.3	254%
LSD, PCP or Mushrooms	2.6	236%	1.1	1.6	145%
Methamphetamine	0.6	120%	0.5	1.0	200%
Cocaine or Crack Cocaine	0	0%	0.8	3.3	413%
Heroin	0	0%	0.4	0.8	200%
Depressants	5.5	275%	2.0	3.2	160%
Prescription Pain Relievers	2.9	100%	2.9	4.7	162%
Prescription Amphetamines	3.1	282%	1.1	3.0	273%
Steroid (without a doctor's	0	0%	0.3	0.2	67%
Over-the-Counter Drugs	3.6	138%	2.6	2.7	104%

\*Ecstasy, Rohypnol, GHB and ketamine are provided as examples in the question about club drugs.  
 Binge drinking is defined as having had five or more alcoholic drinks in a row in the past two weeks.  
 Source: Florida Department of Children & Families, 2010 Florida Youth Substance Abuse Survey, Table 3

In the area of drug use within the past 30 days, Franklin County reported use at a rate 150% or greater than State wide rates in five drug groups, while in Gulf County, there are ten drug groups where reported use was greater than 150% State wide rates.

Of particular note is that:

- Franklin is 38% the State wide rate, while in Gulf this use is 254% the State wide rate.
- Franklin use of LSD, PCP or Mushrooms is 236% Statewide, while in Gulf this use is 145% Statewide.
- Franklin methamphetamine use is 120% the State wide rate, while in Gulf this use is 200% the State wide rate.
- Franklin use of cocaine or crack cocaine is at 0%, while in Gulf this use is 413% the State wide rate.
- Franklin use of heroin is at 0%, while in Gulf this use is 200% the State wide rate.
- Franklin use of depressants is 275% the State wide rate, while in Gulf this use is 160% the State wide rate.
- Both Franklin and Gulf use of prescription amphetamines is approaching three times the State wide rate.

## Student Behaviors

In the area of delinquent behavior, Franklin County reported at a rate 150% or greater than State wide rates in four areas, while in Gulf County, there was one area where reported behavior was greater than 150% State wide rates.

Of particular note is that:

- Franklin County youth carry handguns at a rate that is 267% the State wide rate.
- Franklin County youth take a handgun to school at a rate that is 440% the State wide rate.
- In Gulf County, all behaviors exceed State wide rates, except being suspended or arrested.

Behavior	Franklin County Percent	Franklin Percent of State	Florida Percent	Gulf County Percent	Gulf Percent of State
Carrying a handgun	13.1	267%	4.9	6.1	124%
Selling drugs	11.8	187%	6.3	9.2	146%
Attempting to steal a vehicle	3.1	141%	2.2	3.4	155%
Being arrested	6.2	129%	4.8	3.7	77%
Taking a handgun to school	4.4	440%	1.0	1.3	130%
Getting suspended	18.6	127%	14.7	13.8	94%
Attacking someone with intent to harm	15.5	146%	10.6	11.6	109%
Being drunk or high at school	22.9	178%	12.9	16.3	126%

Source: Florida Department of Children & Families, 2010 Florida Youth Substance Abuse Survey, Table 11

In the area of bullying behavior, Franklin County reported at a rate 150% or greater than State wide rates in four areas, while in Gulf County, there was one area where reported behavior was greater than 150% State wide rates.

Of particular note is that:

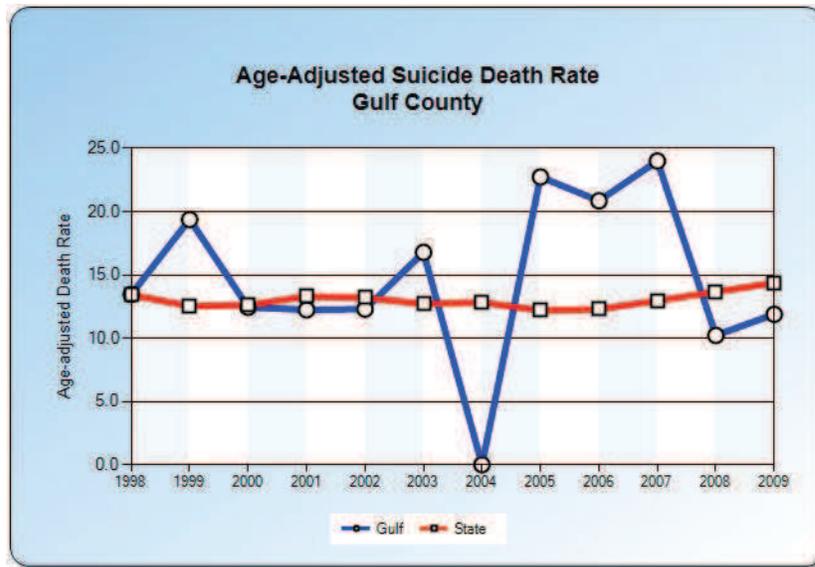
- Gulf County youth skipped school because of bullying at a rate that is 153% the State wide rate.

Behavior	Franklin County Percent	Franklin Percent of State	Florida Percent	Gulf County Percent	Gulf Percent of State
Bullying caused worry	27.3	119%	23.0	23.4	102%
Skipped school because of bullying	7.5	197%	3.8	5.8	153%
Was kicked or shoved in past 30 days	19.1	152%	12.6	14.6	116%
Was taunted or teased in past 30 days	39.6	141%	28.0	28.9	103%
Was victim of cyber bullying in past 30 days	14.0	156%	9.0	8.3	92%
Physically bullied others in past 30 days	18.0	168%	10.7	11.1	104%
Verbally bullied others in past 30 days	28.0	144%	19.5	18.4	94%
Cyber bullied others in past 30 days	8.6	143%	6.0	5.5	92%

Source: Florida Department of Children & Families, 2010 Florida Youth Substance Abuse Survey, Table 14

## Suicide

Gulf County ranks in the 3rd Quartile for the incidence of suicide, with an age-adjusted rate lower than Statewide.



County Health Rankings analyzes populations in a category titled Family and Social Support, which is defined by two measures: (1) percent of adults reporting that they do not receive the social and emotional support they need and (2) percent of children living in single-parent households. Gulf County is ranked as number 65 out of 67 Florida counties.

## Awareness of Mental Health Services

The GCHD Survey included questions about participant's awareness of mental health resources in Gulf County. Of those who participated in the survey, 55% of respondents do not know where to go for mental health services, and 72% do not know where to go for substance abuse services.

Mental Health Resources Questions	Percent Agree	Percent Disagree
I know where to go for mental health services in my community.	45%	55%
I know where to go for substance abuse services in my community.	28%	72%

## Domestic Violence

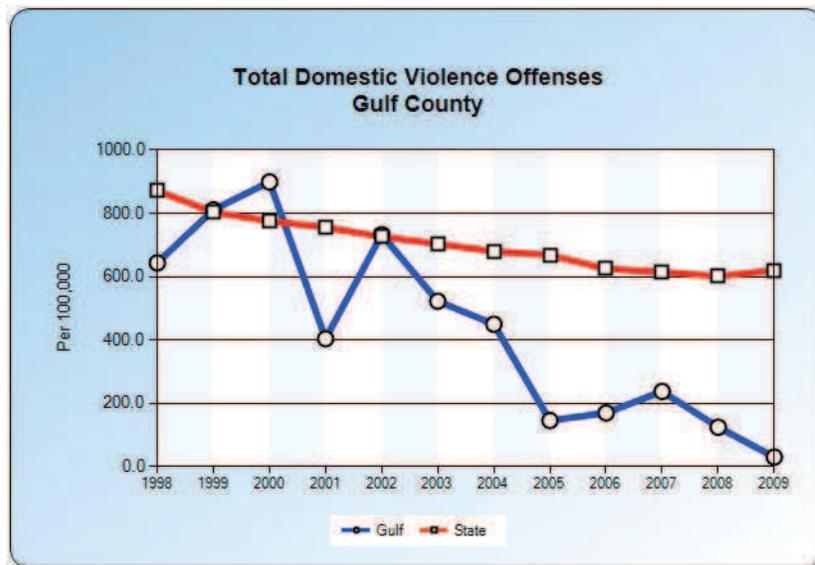
The incidence of child abuse is ranked in the 3rd Quartile, with the County Rate higher than the State rate.

Indicator	County Quartile	County Number	County Rate	State Rate
Children 5-11 experiencing child abuse	3	19	16.9	11.0

Rate: Per 1,000 population age 5-11

Source: Florida Charts: School-aged Child and/Adolescent Profile

The Gulf County Health Status Summary places the County in the 1st Quartile of all Florida counties for Domestic Violence Offenses for the 3-year period 2007-2009. The County cumulative rate of incidents is lower than the State rate, and the Florida Charts analysis is that the trend is improving. The number of events dropped from 21 in 2008 to 5 in 2009.



## HEALTH CARE ACCESS

This section reports data on the quantity of various services used by Gulf County residents. Data is not available for all services evaluated in this report. Information is also included about obstacles to obtaining services; such as the BRFSS reports of persons not able to access care due to cost factors.

One important part to evaluating access issues is an overview of Federal shortage area designations. These designations are very important in understanding one criterion for the distribution of federal dollars to support health care service delivery.

### **Federal Shortage Area Designations**

There are both Rural Health Clinic and Federally Qualified Health Centers in Gulf County. These are particularly important designations for the provision of services to the low income, uninsured population. Health leaders in Gulf County should have a thorough understanding of these designations in order to maximize their potential benefit to Gulf County residents and to preserve this status. In particular, the Federally Qualified Health Center designation can be the portal the numerous federal grants amounting to millions of dollars to support care to vulnerable populations.

## Inpatient Utilization (Acute Care)

For the period July 2009 through June 2010, Gulf County residents had 2,230 inpatient admissions spread among the hospitals shown in the table below.

Facility	City	Total Admissions	Percent Admissions
Bay Medical Center	Panama City	1,164	52.2%
Gulf Coast Medical Center	Panama City	685	30.7%
Emerald Coast Behavioral Hospital	Panama City	104	4.7%
Tallahassee Memorial Hospital	Tallahassee	31	1.4%
Sacred Heart Hospital	Pensacola	21	0.9%
Baptist Hospital	Pensacola	5	0.2%
Select Specialty Hospital	Panama City	21	0.9%
Shands Hospital At The Univ. Of Florida	Gainesville	23	1.0%
Healthsouth Emerald Coast Rehabilitation	Panama City	36**	1.6%
George E. Weems Memorial Hospital	Apalachicola	8	0.4%
Mayo Clinic	Jacksonville	6	0.3%
North Florida Regional Medical Center	Gainesville	7	0.3%
Jackson Hospital	Marianna	10	0.4%
Capital Regional Medical Center	Tallahassee	9	0.4%
Sacred Heart Hospital On The Gulf	Port Saint Joe	94**	4.2%
Sacred Heart Hospital On The Emerald	Miramar	6	0.3%
Total		2,230	100%

Source: Florida Agency for Health Care Administration (AHCA), FloridaHealthFinder.gov, Inpatient Data Query, <http://www.floridahealthfinder.gov/QueryTool/Results.aspx>

Note that not all of these were for an acute care diagnosis. The total includes rehabilitation and psychiatric admissions. Also note that 2 hospitals, identified by \*\*, had only six months of data for this reporting period.

Sacred Heart Hospital on the Gulf opened March 15, 2010, so the data includes only a few weeks of operations.

Most of Gulf County residents travelled outside the County for hospital care, with 90% of admissions occurring in Panama City. However, as stated earlier, Sacred Heart Hospital on the Gulf had only been open a few weeks for the time period of this data.

City	Percent Admissions
Panama City	90%
Port Saint Joe	4%
Other	6%
Total	100%

Distances from Gulf County communities to regional hospitals are shown in the table below. Hospitals in Panama City are 29-36 miles from Gulf County communities. All others are at least 84 miles distant.

Hospital	City	Port Saint Joe	Wewahitchka
Bay Medical Center, Gulf Coast Medical Center	Panama City	36	29
Tallahassee Memorial Hospital, Capital Regional Medical Center	Tallahassee	101	84
Shands Hospital at the University of Florida	Gainesville	251	214
Sacred Heart Hospital On The Emerald Coast	Miramar Beach	100	95
Sacred Heart Hospital, Baptist Hospital	Pensacola	187	167

## Preventable Hospital Admissions

### Ambulatory Care Sensitive Conditions

County Health Rankings reports on Preventable Hospital Stays, defined as the rate of preventable hospitalizations, or the hospitalization rate for ambulatory-care sensitive conditions per 1,000 Medicare enrollees. Ambulatory-care sensitive conditions (ACSC) are usually addressed in an outpatient setting and do not normally require hospitalization if the condition is well-managed. Data used in the County Health Rankings is from 2006-2007 Medicare claims data reported in the Dartmouth Atlas.

ACSC Rate	Gulf County Rate	State Rate
Hospitalization rate for ambulatory-care sensitive conditions per 1,000 Medicare enrollees	85	65

Source: University of Wisconsin Population Health Institute. County Health Rankings 2011. [www.countyhealthrankings.org](http://www.countyhealthrankings.org)

As shown in the table above, the Gulf County ASCS rate for 2006-2007 was 85, compared to a State wide rate of 65.

## Prevention Quality Indicators

The *Broward Regional Health Planning Council Health Data Warehouse PQI/Avoidable Admission* data section reports that in 2009 there were 228 avoidable hospital admissions for Gulf County residents due to PQI criteria. Four PQI indicators had rates higher than Statewide. In Gulf County, there were 228 avoidable hospital admissions for Gulf County residents due to PQI criteria. Four PQI indicators had rates higher than Statewide. Rates higher than Statewide are highlighted below.

The Prevention Quality Indicators (PQIs) are a set of measures that can be used with hospital inpatient discharge data to identify quality of care for "ambulatory care-sensitive conditions."

PQI	Gulf Number	Gulf Rate	State Rate
01-Diabetes/short-term	5	0.04%	0.05%
02-Perforated appendicitis	5	62.50%	25.92%
03-Diabetes/long-term	24	0.17%	0.12%
05-Chronic obstructive PD	37	0.27%	0.24%
07-Hypertension	10	0.07%	0.09%
08-Congestive HF	64	0.46%	0.38%
09-Low birth weight	7	5.04%	6.13%
10-Dehydration	5	0.04%	0.07%
11-Bacterial pneumonia	37	0.27%	0.29%
12-Urinary infections	16	0.11%	0.21%
13-Angina w/o procedure	3	0.02%	0.02%
14-Uncontrolled diabetes	3	0.02%	0.03%
15-Adult asthma	8	0.06%	0.14%
16-Diabetes/LE amputations	4	0.03%	0.03%
TOTAL:	228	# County Higher than State = 4	

Source: *Broward Regional Health Planning Council, Hospital Inpatient & Emergency Department Analytical System, healthdata.brhpc.org*

## Emergency Department (ED)

When a patient arrives at the ED, hospital staff assign a Current Procedural Terminology (CPT) code. The codes delineate the relative severity, low to high, of the person's condition upon arrival at the ED.

<b>Low-Acuity Group:</b>	
99281	The presenting problem(s) are self-limited or of minor severity
99282	The presenting problem(s) are of low to moderate severity
<b>High-Acuity Group:</b>	
99283	The presenting problem(s) are of moderate severity
99284	
99285	The presenting problem(s) are of high severity, but do not pose an immediate significant threat to life.

In 2009, Gulf County residents sought care in an emergency department 3,294 times. Of these visits, 25.7% were low acuity compared to a total of 28% Statewide. Note that this data is only for those visits that did NOT result in an inpatient admission.

<b>CPT Definition</b>	<b>Gulf County Number of Visits</b>	<b>Gulf County Percent</b>	<b>Florida Percent</b>
99281-Minor severity	145	4.4%	9%
99282-Low/moderate severity	701	21.3%	19%
<b>Low Acuity Sub Total</b>	<b>846</b>	<b>25.7%</b>	<b>28%</b>
99283-Moderate severity	998	30.3%	38%
99284-High severity/non-	879	26.7%	26%
99285-High severity/immediate	571	17.3%	9%
<b>High Acuity Sub Total</b>	<b>2,448</b>	<b>74.3%</b>	<b>72%</b>
Total	3,294	100%	100%

Source: Broward Regional Health Planning Council, Hospital Inpatient & Emergency Department Analytical System, [healthdata.brhpc.org](http://healthdata.brhpc.org)

In the GCHD Survey, participants were asked the type of facility they go to when they are sick or need medical advice for both themselves and their children. In the responses, 4% indicated they would seek care in an emergency department for themselves, and none indicated they would go to an emergency department for care for their children.

Participants were also asked the number of time they, or a family member, had visited and emergency department in the last year, with 61% of the respondents indicating use 1-5 times during the past year.

<b>In the past year, how many times have you and your family visited an emergency room?</b>		
<b>Response</b>	<b>Number</b>	<b>Percent</b>
None	8	2%
1-5 times	210	61%
3-4 visits	94	27%
5 + visits	33	10%

Obviously, there is an inconsistency between the two responses. In the first question, 4% said they 'would' seek care in an emergency department, and in the second question, 98% said they had visited an emergency department during the past year, and many of those with multiple visits. This is an inconsistency that should be investigated further.

There were 2,120 visits that were not associated with drug, alcohol, psychiatric or injury causes. Of these, 29.6% (10.6% plus 19%) met the NYU algorithm definitions of needing treatment in an emergency department.

<b>CPT Definition</b>	<b>Number of Visits</b>	<b>NonEm Percent</b>	<b>EmPCT Percent</b>	<b>EmPrev Percent</b>	<b>EmNonPrev Percent</b>
Minor severity	94	44%	38.6%	6.3%	11.1%
Low/moderate severity	451	45.2%	37.2%	9.1%	8.5%
Moderate severity	584	35.1%	37.3%	13.9%	13.7%
High severity/ non-immediate	583	31%	32.4%	9.6%	27%
High severity-immediate	408	27.1%	34.4%	10.1%	28.4%
<b>Total:</b>	<b>2,120</b>	<b>35%</b>	<b>35.4%</b>	<b>10.6%</b>	<b>19%</b>

Source: Broward Regional Health Planning Council, Hospital Inpatient & Emergency Department Analytical System, [healthdata.brhpc.org](http://healthdata.brhpc.org)

As discussed earlier, there were 3,294 total visits to EDs, of which, 2,120 were not related to drug, alcohol, psychiatric or injury causes. The remaining 1,174 visits are shown in the table below.

CPT Definition	Number of Visits	Drug/Alc Visits	Psych Visits	Injury Visits	Unclass Visits
Minor severity	51	0	2	31	18
Low/moderate severity	250	0	4	196	50
Moderate severity	414	0	7	301	106
High severity/non-immediate	296	4	14	147	131
High severity/immediate	163	12	11	78	62
Subtotal:	1,174	16	38	753	367

Source: Broward Regional Health Planning Council, Hospital Inpatient & Emergency Department Analytical System, [healthdata.brhpc.org](http://healthdata.brhpc.org)

### Inpatient Substance Abuse

The *Florida HealthFinder* inpatient data reports 104 admissions to the Emerald Coast Behavioral Hospital in Panama City, which provides comprehensive psychiatric and drug treatment services. There is no indication in the data how many of the 104 admissions were for psychiatric causes versus drug treatment causes. In addition, the Health Data Warehouse information reports 16 emergency department visits for drug and alcohol related causes.

### Primary Care

No research data was found indicating the number of visits Gulf County residents had for primary care. However, higher than expected rates of ASC conditions, preventable hospitalizations and overuse of the emergency department (particularly for low acuity conditions) are all indications of less than adequate primary care.

The GCHD Survey asked participants where they go to seek care. Since the totals for the question about where the respondent would seek care are greater than the 346 surveys completed, obviously some indicated more than one source of care.

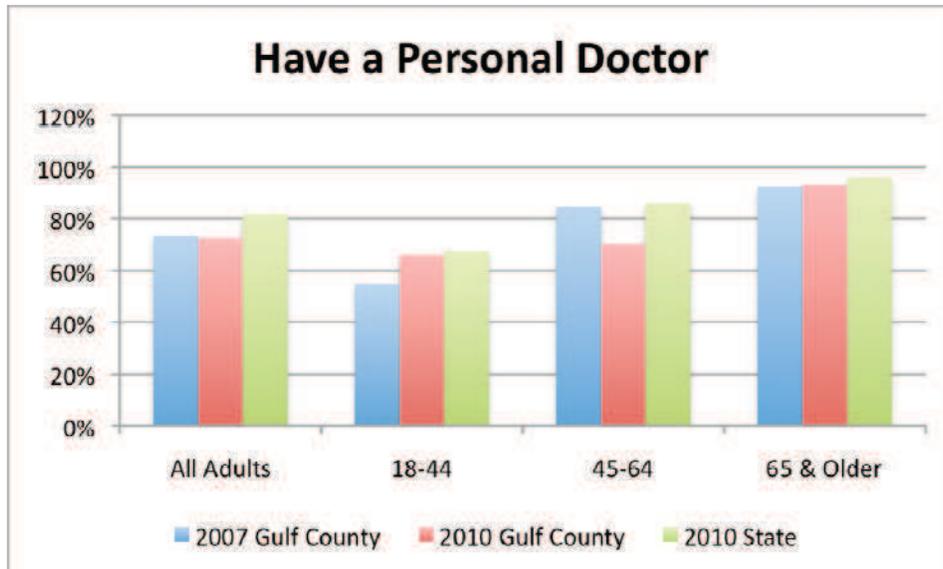
Question	County Health Department Clinic	Doctor's Office/Private Clinic	Federally Qualified Health Center	Hospital Emergency Room	None of these places or N/A	Total
What kind of place do you usually go to when you are sick or need advice about your health?	180	168	14	14	1	377
	48%	45%	4%	4%	0%	100%
What kind of place do you usually take your child when he/she is sick or need advice about their health?	144	126	0	0	76	346
	42%	36%	0%	0%	22%	100%

In addition, Florida Charts reports access indicators for financial and insurance barriers for adults seeking services, as gathered in the Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System (BRFSS) Data Report. For *Adults Who Have a Personal Doctor*, the percent decreased from 2002 to 2007 for all adults and the 18-44 age categories, and increased for the 45-64 and 65 and older categories. The categories of *Access for all ages* and the *18-44* age category rank in the Florida 4th Quartile.

Age Group	2002 Gulf County	2007 Gulf County	2007 Gulf Quartile	2007 State	2010 Gulf County	2010 State	Gulf 2010 Percent of State	Gulf 2007-2010 Change
All Adults	79.5%	73.4%	4	77.1%	72.6%	81.7%	89%	-0.8%
18-44	72.7%	54.8%	4	64.7%	66.0%	67.5%	98%	11.2%
45-64	79.5%	84.7%	2	83.3%	70.4%	86.2%	82%	-14.3%
65 & Older	91.1%	92.6%	3	92.9%	93.2%	96.0%	97%	0.6%

Source: Florida Department of Health, Division of Disease Control, BRFSS Data Report-2007 and 2010

From 2007 to 2010, there was a decrease of 0.8% in the number of all *Adults Who Have a Personal Doctor*, and a 14.3% decrease for the age group 45-64. The age group 18-44 had an increase of 11.2%, and the age group 65 and older had an increase of 0.6%.



In all age categories, the percent of Adults Who Have a Personal Doctor is lower than Statewide. This is the only indicator for which 2002 data is available in Florida Charts.

The GCHD Survey response was that 82% of the participants reported having a doctor or clinic that they go to for routine health care.

Question	Percent	Percent Disagree
I have a doctor or clinic that I go to for my routine health care.	82%	18%
The doctor's office or clinic is close to my home	64%	36%
I or a family member am able to get health care	71%	29%

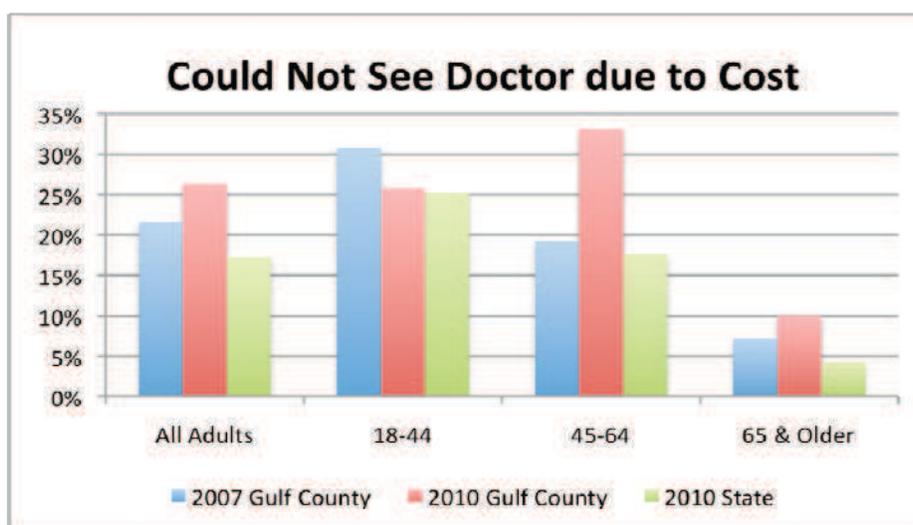
For the category, *Adults Who Could Not See a Doctor at Least Once in the Past Year Due to Cost*, 2007 rankings for all adults and age categories 18-44, and 65 and older are the 4<sup>th</sup> Quartile, and the ranking for the 45-64 age group is the 3<sup>rd</sup> Quartile in 2007.

Age Group	2007 Gulf County	2007 Gulf Quartile	2007 State	2010 Gulf County	2010 State	Gulf 2010 Percent of State	Gulf 2007-2010 Change
All Adults	21.6%	4	15.1%	26.3%	17.3%	152%	4.7%
18-44	30.8%	4	19.9%	25.7%	25.3%	102%	-5.1%
45-64	19.3%	3	15.8%	33.1%	17.6%	188%	13.8%
≥65	7.2%	4	4.5%	10.0%	4.3%	233%	2.8%

Source: Florida Department of Health, Division of Disease Control, BRFSS Data Report-2007 and 2010

From 2007 to 2010, there was an increase of 4.7% in the number of all *Adults Who Could Not See a Doctor at Least Once in the Past Year Due to Cost*, a 13.8% increase for the age group 45-64, and a 2.8% increase for the age group 65 and older. The age group 18-44 had a decrease of 5.1%.

In all age categories, the percent of *Adults Who Could Not See a Doctor at Least Once in the Past Year Due to Cost* is higher than Statewide. For those age 45-64, the Gulf County rate is 188% per the Statewide rate, and for the age group 65 and older, the Gulf County rate is 233% the Statewide rate.



The GCHD Survey response was that 70% of the participants reported that their insurance covered their health care needs, and 42% had an illness that was not treated due to lack of insurance.

Question	Percent Agree	Percent Disagree
I have health insurance that covers my health care needs.	30%	70%
I, or a family member, had an illness that was not treated because we did not have health insurance.	42%	58%

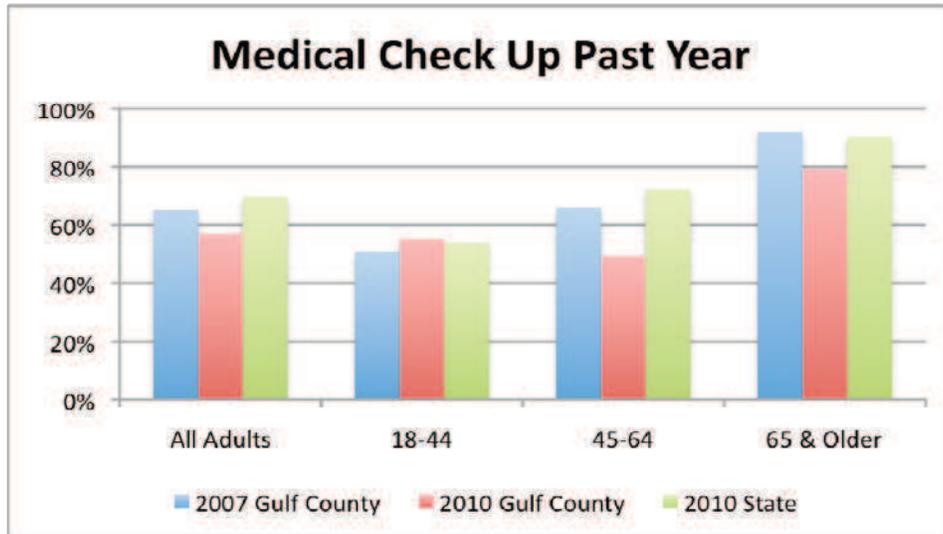
For Adults Who Had a Medical Checkup in the Past Year, 2007 rankings for all adults and the age 18-44 and 45-64 categories are the 4th Quartile, and the 65 and older group is ranked in the 2nd Quartile.

Age Group	2007 Gulf County	2007 Gulf Quartile	2007 State	2010 Gulf County	2010 State	Gulf 2010 Percent of State	Gulf 2007-2010 Change
All Adults	65.2%	4	74.6%	56.8%	69.7%	81%	-8.4%
18-44	50.8%	4	64.0%	55.2%	53.8%	103%	4.4%
45-64	65.9%	4	77.7%	49.5%	72.3%	68%	-16.4%
≥65	92.0%	2	91.5%	79.1%	90.3%	88%	-12.9%

Source: Florida Department of Health, Division of Disease Control, BRFSS Data Report-2007 and 2010

From 2007 to 2010, there was a decrease of 8.4% in the number of all Adults Who Had a Medical Checkup in the Past Year, a 16.4% decrease for the age group 45-64, and a 12.9% decrease for the age group 65 and older. The age group 18-44 had an increase of 4.4%.

In all age categories, the percent of *Adults Who Had a Medical Checkup in the Past Year* is lower than State-wide, except for the age group 18-44, where the Gulf County percent is 3% higher than State-wide. For those age 45-64, the Gulf County rate is 68% per the State-wide rate, and for the age group 65 and older, the Gulf County rate is 88% the State-wide rate.



The GCHD Survey response was that 58% of the participants reported not having a physical exam during the past year.

Question	Percent Agree	Percent Disagree
I have had a regular physical exam during the past year.	42%	58%

### Primary Care Shortage Area Status

In Gulf County, the Wewahitchka Census County Division (CCD) is designated as a Primary Care Health Professional Shortage Area (HPSA) for the low-income population. Note that this designation is for a special population, and is not a geographic designation.

### Medically Underserved Area Status

All of Gulf County is designated as Medically Underserved for the low-income population (MUP).

### **Prenatal/Obstetrical Care**

There were 138 births to Gulf County residents in 2009, with a three-year average of 139 births per year.

### **School Health**

The Gulf County public school enrollment was 2,050 in the 2008-2009 school year.

### **Mental Health**

The *Florida HealthFinder* inpatient data reports 104 admissions to the Emerald Coast Behavioral Hospital. This hospital, located in Panama City, provides comprehensive psychiatric and drug treatment services. There is no indication in the data how many of the 104 admissions were for psychiatric causes versus drug treatment causes. In addition, the Health Data Warehouse information did report 38 emergency department visits for psychiatric related causes.

As reported earlier, the GCHD Survey included questions about participant's awareness of mental health resources in Gulf County. 55% of respondents do not know where to go for mental health services, and 72% do not know where to go for substance abuse services.

### Mental Health Shortage Area Status

All of Gulf County is designated as a Mental Health HPSA for the low-income population. Note that this designation is for a special population, and is not a geographic designation.

## Dental Care

In Gulf County (in 2007), there were a total of 26% of all adults who could not see a dentist in the past year due to cost, resulting in a 4th Quartile ranking for all adults, except the 45-64 age group, which is ranked in the 3rd Quartile. Note: 2010 BRFSS data was not available for cost barriers to dental care.

Age Group	2007 Gulf County	2007 Gulf Quartile	2007 State
All Adults	26.0%	4	19.2%
18-44	33.6%	4	23.6%
45-64	21.8%	3	19.5%
65 & Older	15.1%	4	9.8%

However, the GCHD Survey did include questions about dental care. As shown in the table below, 55% of respondents did not have a dental exam in the past year, and 78% reported not being able to get the dental care that they needed.

Question	Percent Agree	Percent Disagree
I have had a dental exam or cleaning in the past year	45%	55%
The dentist's office is close to my home	53%	47%
I or a family member received dental care during the past year	51%	49%
I or a family member was unable to get dental care we need	78%	22%

Within the low-income population, 52.3% of those living in poverty did have access to dental care, compared to 27.8% Statewide. Stated another way, in order to compare this percent to the previous figure, 47.7% of the low income did NOT have access to dental care, compared to 72.2% Statewide.

Population	2007-2009	2007-2009
Percent Persons in Poverty with Dental Access	52.3%	27.8%
Percent Persons in Poverty without Dental Access	47.7%	72.2%

### Dental Shortage Area Status

All of Gulf County is designated as a Dental HPSA for the low-income population. Note that this designation is for a special population, and is not a geographic designation.

### **Hospice**

The closest Hospice providers are Emerald Coast Hospice in Panama City, 51 miles from Apalachicola, and Big Bend Hospice in Tallahassee, 68 miles from Apalachicola. For the period 2001-2005, 33% of Gulf County residents appropriate for hospice service actually used those services, compared to 44% State-wide.

The GCHD Survey queried participant's awareness of end of life services. As shown in Figure 112, 72% responded that they did not know how to access this care in their community.

Question	Percent Aagree	Percent Disagree
I know how to get end-of-life care or hospice care in my community.	28%	72%

## Domestic Violence

There were five domestic violence offenses reported in Gulf County in 2009. However, the number of offenses filed does not represent the total number of residents seeking help for domestic violence prevention and treatment.

## Respiratory Therapy/Physical Therapy

No data was found reporting the number of times residents of Gulf County used inpatient or outpatient respiratory or physical therapy. However, the Florida *HealthFinder* inpatient data reports 36 admissions to the Healthsouth Rehabilitation Hospital in Panama City for the June 2009-2010 reporting period. Data from this hospital was reported for only six months.

## Pharmacy

The GCHD Survey results show that 54% of respondents report not being able to afford prescribed medications. However, 57% report that their primary care provider helps with getting medications.

Question	Percent Agree	Percent Disagree
I can afford to buy medicine my doctor tells me a family member or I need to take.	46%	54%
My doctor or clinic helps me get medicine my family or I need that we cannot afford.	57%	43%
I have used someone else's medicine because I could not buy my own.	15%	85%

## Provider Assessment

The purpose of this section of the report is to describe the providers in Gulf County. This assessment is described through the following steps:

1. The types of providers to be assessed in this report had to be identified. This was done through the development of the list of *Services to be Evaluated*. For example, some counties undertaking this type of assessment may decide that nursing home services, or alternative health services, are important considerations. Other counties may focus on a less broad range of services.
2. The *geographic area* is defined. In this report, the geographic area was defined as all of Gulf County.

It should be noted that the providers listed in these tables are the providers identified in the geographic area communities. It does not include providers that Gulf County residents may use, but which are located outside the geographic area defined.

3. Using the list of *Services to be Evaluated*, and the geographic boundaries of the area defined, an *inventory of providers* was conducted. This inventory was collected from the state licensing databases. The information from this database was reviewed and edited through discussions with staff of SHHG and the Gulf County Health Department. Also, provider web sites were used to develop a description of the services provided, location of offices, etc.
4. The major providers with multiple programs are described in a brief *narrative* of each program.
5. A list of providers was compiled. This list shows the providers identified for each *Service to be Evaluated*, and the location (town) in which that provider is located.

## Selection of Services to be Evaluated

The services listed in the table below were selected for study in Gulf County.

<b>Inpatient</b>	<b>Other Health Services</b>
Acute Care	Mental Health Services
Inpatient Substance Abuse	Pharmacy Services
<b>Emergency Care</b>	Dental Care
Emergency Response	Hospice
Emergency Department	Public Health
<b>Primary Care</b>	<b>Special Populations</b>
Primary Care Practices	Domestic Violence
Preventive Services	<b>Rehabilitation Services</b>
Prenatal Care	Respiratory Therapy Services
Obstetrical Services	Physical Therapy Services
School Health Services	

### Description of Area Providers

In addition to the providers in Gulf County, it should be noted that residents have access to health services in nearby areas. The Health Resources Services Administration (HRSA) defines a 'reasonable' distance to travel for care as 30 minutes. The predominant hospitals used by Gulf County residents (identified earlier) are in Panama City. The distance and travel time from Gulf County communities are shown in the table below. The Sacred Heart Hospital on the Gulf is added, since it opened after the date of the utilization data, and to show distances from other Gulf County communities. Hospitals are used as the proxy for access to all services, recognizing that the hospital is the hub of multiple other services.

<b>Hospital</b>	<b>City</b>	<b>Port St. Joe</b>		<b>Wewahitchka</b>	
		<b>Miles</b>	<b>Time</b>	<b>Miles</b>	<b>Time</b>
Gulf Coast Medical Center	Panama City	36	57	29	41
Bay Medical Center			minutes		minutes
Sacred Heart Hospital	Port St. Joe	NA	NA	24	33
					minutes

Following is a list of the predominant health care providers in Gulf County:

*Sacred Heart Hospital on the Gulf (SHHG)*

Sacred Heart Hospital on the Gulf, a 25-bed hospital, opened its doors to patient care on March 15, 2010. The new \$38 million hospital has a 24-hour emergency department, inpatient services, surgical services, a full complement of diagnostic and laboratory services, and a helipad to be used by Sacred Heart's regional air ambulance service to provide rapid transport for trauma or critically ill patients.

Sacred Heart Hospital on the Gulf is part of Sacred Heart Health System. Key services include a 458-bed hospital in Pensacola, a Regional Heart and Vascular Institute, Children's and Women's Hospital, a Level II Trauma Center, Cancer Center, a 120-bed nursing home, and Sacred Heart Hospital on the Emerald Coast in Miramar Beach.

SHHG services include:

- 24-Hour Emergency Department
- In-Patient Acute Care Services
- Outpatient Infusion Services
- Diagnostic & Imaging Services
- CT Scanner
- Ultrasound
- Laboratory Services
- Rehabilitation Services
- Surgical Services
- Helipad for Rapid Transport
- Fluoroscopy
- X-ray
- Pulmonary Function Testing
- Nine "swing" beds that provide care for patients who need additional rehabilitation after a hospital stay or surgery

A Medical Office Building adjacent to the hospital features:

- Primary Care & Specialty Physicians
- Women's Diagnostics & Imaging Services (fall 2011)
  - o Digital Mammography
  - o Ultrasound Services
- DaVita Dialysis Services
- Sacred Heart Rehabilitation
  - o Speech Therapy
  - o Physical Therapy
  - o Occupational Therapy

Sacred Heart Health System also provides a large regional network of primary care and specialty physicians stretching from Foley, Alabama to Port St. Joe, Florida.

## *Gulf County Public Health Department*

The Gulf County Health Department provides services in facilities in both Wewahitchka and Port Saint Joe. Many who are denied assistance from the state but cannot afford medical insurance take advantage of the affordable health care offered at the Gulf CHD. Yearly Cervical Cancer and Prostate Cancer screening clinics are held at no charge to the public. Information and education are provided to individuals, schools and civic groups.

In 2004 a Federally Qualified Health Center grant was awarded to GCHD, making the newly formed Saint Joseph Care of Florida, Inc./Gulf County Health Department the first health department in the State of Florida to incorporate an FQHC into existing operations.

Services available at the Gulf County Health Department include:

- Immunizations
- Family Planning
- Primary Care (hypertension, diabetes, weight control, etc.)
- Orthopedic Care
- Healthy Start (prenatal care & referrals, childbirth education, etc.)
- WIC (Women, Infants & Children) (breastfeeding support, nutrition counseling)
- EPSDT (Early Periodic Screening and Diagnostic Testing)
- School Health
- Tuberculosis , AIDS , STD (Sexually Transmitted Diseases)
- Tobacco Prevention
- Prescription Assistance
- Obesity/Diet Plans
- Seizure Control
- Dental Clinic
- Social Services
- Behavioral Health

## *Wewahitchka Medical Center*

The Wewahitchka Medical Center is a practice site of North Florida Medical Centers, which is a large Federally Qualified Health Center (FQHC), based in Tallahassee, with 12 community health centers located throughout North Florida.

Wewahitchka Medical Center is located in Wewahitchka, provides services to all lifecycle aged patients, and offers patient care hours 5 days per week 8:00-5:00. A sliding fee schedule is available for low-income patients, and discounted prescriptions are available to patients.

FQHCs receive federal grants and enhanced reimbursement from Medicare and Medicaid to subsidize the provision of services in areas with vulnerable populations who otherwise could not afford care. FQHCs are 'safety net' providers required to provide a comprehensive range of services to all, regardless of ability to pay. A broad range of services are required, including primary care, dental care, mental health and substance abuse services, prenatal care, discounted prescription medications, transportation services for patients, hospital care, and patient support services.

Wewahitchka Medical Center lists the following services:

- Discount Slide Fee Scale Program
- Discount Prescription Program
- Same Day Scheduling
- Clinical Services
- General Primary Medical Care
- Diagnostic Laboratory
- Screenings
  - Cancer
  - Communicable Diseases
  - Cholesterol
  - Lead test for elevated blood lead level
  - Pediatric vision and hearing
- Non-Emergency Medical Services
- Voluntary Family Planning
- Immunizations
- Well Child Services
- Gynecological Care
- School / Sports / Work Physicals
- Referral to Mental Health
- Referral to Substance Abuse
- Referral to Specialty Services
- Non Clinical Services
  - Counseling/Assessment
  - Referral
  - Follow - up / Discharge Planning
  - Eligibility Assistance
- Health Education
- Outreach

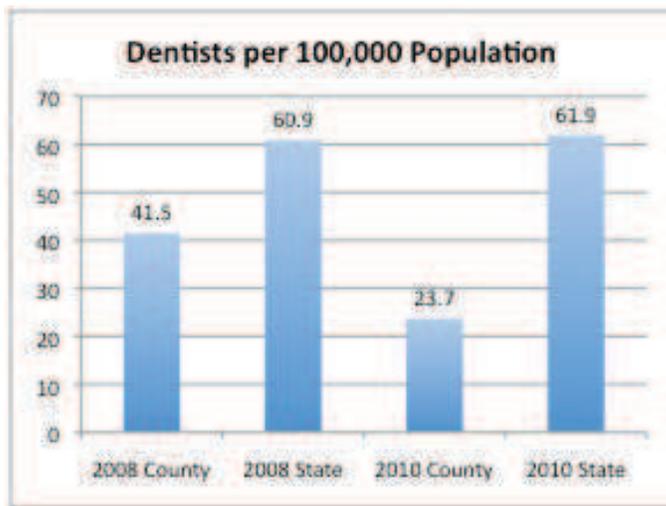
## Countywide Health Resources

The following presents *FloridaCharts* resources data for 2008, 2010 and the change between those two periods. The periods reported in *FloridaCharts* are fiscal years July 1 through June 30.

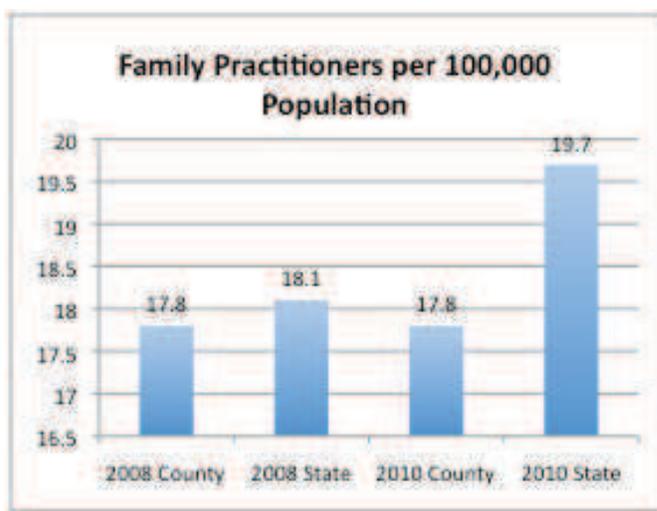
Resource Type	County			Stat	County Percent of State Rate
	Number	Rate per 100,000	Quartile	Rate per 100,000	
<b>Providers</b>					
Dentists	4	23.7	2	61.	38%
All Physicians	10	59.2	2	300	20%
Family Practice	3	17.8	3	19.	90%
Internists	2	11.8	2	41.	28%
OB/GYN	0	0	1	7.	0%
Pediatricians	2	11.8	4	14.	79%
<b>Facilities</b>					
Acute Care Beds	0	0	1	264	0%
<b>County Health</b>					
County PHD FTEs	67	397.4	4	64.	613%
County PHD	\$4,948,053	\$29,304,430	4	\$4,463,038	657%

The following charts illustrate the health resources data shown in the previous tables. NOTE that these data are based on Florida State licensing data (reported in Florida Charts) for 2010. These data may not be consistent with the provider survey done for this report.

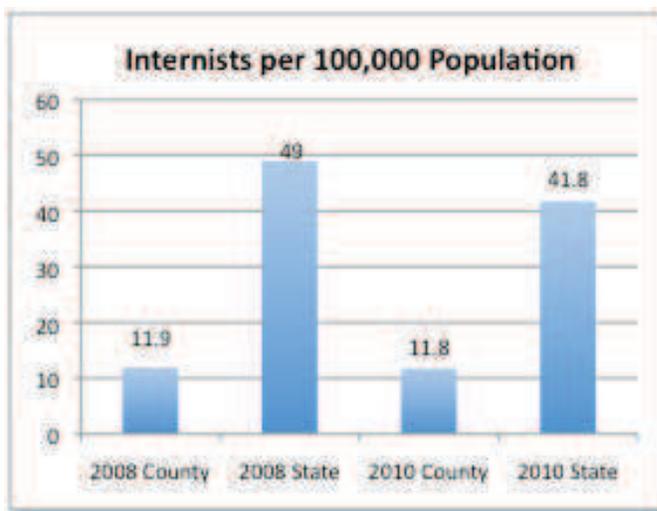
The rate of dentists per 100,000 population decreased from 2008 to 2010. The 2010 County rate is 38% of the state rate. In 2010, the County supply of dentists was ranked in the 2<sup>nd</sup> Quartile.



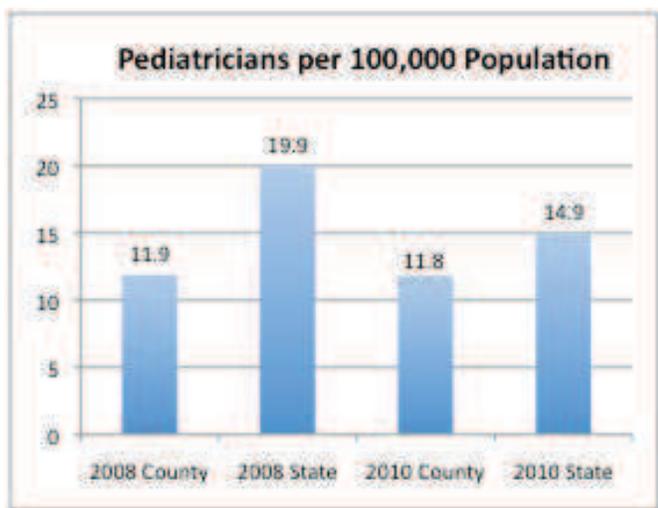
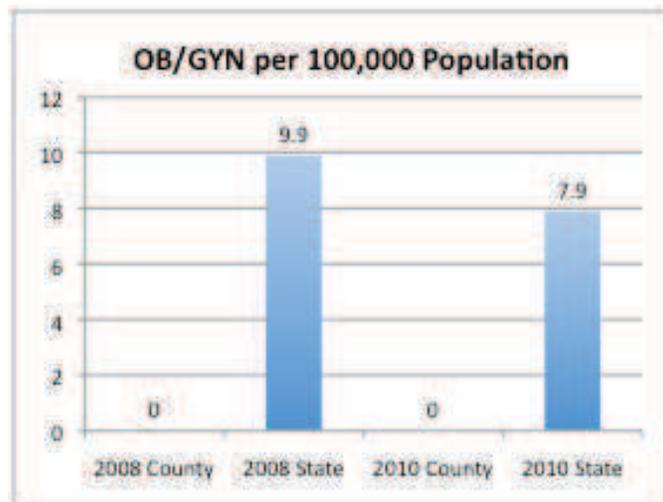
The rate of family practitioners per 100,000 population remained the same from 2008 to 2010. The 2010 County rate was 90% the state rate, and ranked in the 3<sup>rd</sup> Quartile.



The rate of internists per 100,000 population remained the same from 2008-2010. The 2010 County rate was 28% the state rate and ranked in the 2<sup>nd</sup> Quartile.

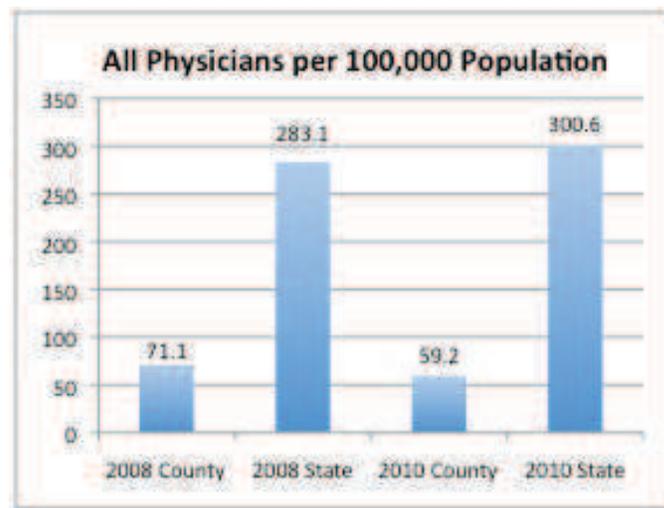


Gulf County had no OB/GYN physicians in 2008 or 2010.

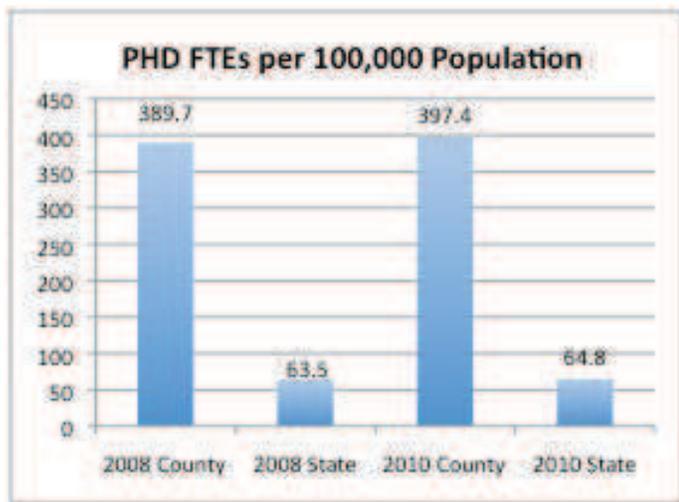
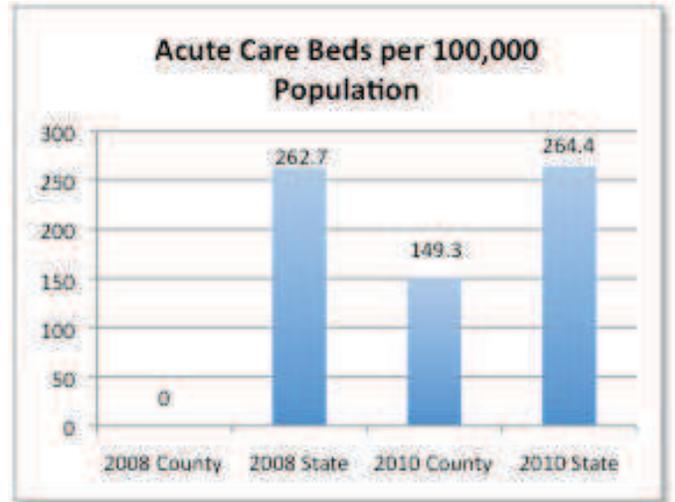


The rate of pediatricians per 100,000 population remained the same from 2008-2010. In 2010, the County rate was 79% the state rate, and ranked in the 4<sup>th</sup> Quartile.

The rate of all physicians (all specialties, not just primary care) per 100,000 population decreased from 2008-2010. In 2010, the County rate was 20% the state rate, and ranked in the 2<sup>nd</sup> Quartile.



The rate of acute care beds per 100,000 population remained the same (none) from 2008-2010. With the opening of Sacred Heart Health on the Gulf in March 2010, 25 beds became available. Computing these beds to the 2010 Gulf County population shows a rate of 149.3 beds per 100,000 population, compared to 264.4 beds per 100,000 Statewide in 2010.



The rate of Public Health Department FTE employees per 100,000 population increased slightly in the period 2008-2010. The County rate of employees per 100,000 population is much higher than Statewide, but these calculations can be misleading due to the small population.

Even with this difference in the rate per 100,000 population, in 2010, the County supply of Public Health Department FTE employees was ranked in the 4th Quartile.

Data Sources: Division of Medical Quality Assurance and Office of Planning, Evaluation and Data Analysis, Florida Dept. of Health; Florida Agency for Health Care Administration Florida Charts, County Health Profile  
 \*Data for providers are for a fiscal year, not a calendar year

**Provider Listing by Service (2011 Update of Licensing Database)**

Inpatient

Acute		
Facility	Town	Note
Sacred Heart Hospital on the Gulf	Port Saint Joe	25 beds—Opened March 15, 2010
Inpatient Substance		
Facility	Town	Note
None		

Emergency Care

Emergency					
Organizati	Town	Note			
Gulf County EMS Port Saint Joe	Port Saint Joe	1 full time Advanced Life Support unit with a paramedic and EMT (day and night shifts) 1 additional daytime ALS with			
Gulf County EMS Wewahitchka	Wewahitchka	1 full time Advanced Life Support unit with a paramedic and EMT When the ALS unit is on a call, a			
Emergency					
Organization	Last Name	First Name	Prof	Town	Note
Sacred Heart Hospital on the Gulf	Cattau	Perry	MD	Port Saint Joe	
	Long	Douglas	MD		
	Reese	John	MD		
	Lueck	Cameron	MD		
	Barclay	Derek	MD		
	O'Haraan	John	DO		
	Giddens	Jeffrey	MD		
	Carney-	Rebecca	MD		
Landa	Martin	MD			
Pablo	Gary	MD			

Primary Care

Primary Care					
Practice Name	Last Name	First Name	Prof	Town	Note
Port Saint Joe Medical Clinic (Gulf County Health Department FQHC)	Murphy	Kevin	MD-FP	Port Saint Joe	Medical director and patient care/ Surgeon by training, but providing primary care
	Hunt	Paul	MD-Peds		Provides care in both Port Saint Joe and Wewahitchka Health Department
	Gainer	Zoe	ARNP		
	Cook	Helen	ARNP		
	Jones	Norma	ARNP		
	Conroy	Dolores	ARNP		

Primary Care, continued

Wewahitchka Medical Clinic (Gulf County Health Department FQHC)	Hunt	Paul	MD-Peds	Wewahitchka	Part time—see earlier note
	Woods	John	MD		Start end of May 2011
	Gainer	Zoe	ARNP		Port Saint Joe ARNPS rotate through Wewahitchka
	Cook	Helen	ARNP		
	Jones	Norma	ARNP		
	Conroy	Delores	ARNP		
Shoreline Medical Group	Curry	Elizabeth	MD-Peds	Port Saint Joe	
	Curry	Thomas	MD-IM		Nephrology also
	Williams	Carolyn	PA		
Wewahitchka Medical Center (North Florida Medical Centers FQHC)	Brown	Patrick	MD—IM	Wewahitchka	
	Hunt	Paul	MD-Peds		part time—see earlier note
	Turner	Beckie	ARNP		
	Rubin	Ann	PA		
Sacred Heart Medical Group	Masters	Clay	ARNP	Port Saint Joe	with Richard Brunner, MD (surgeon), but provides basic primary care
Individuals:	Barnes	Michael	MD-FP	Wewahitchka	
	Ivers	Vincent	MD-IM	Port Saint Joe	2-3 days/week in Port Saint Joe, also in Panama City
	Oksanen	Owen	MD-FP	Port Saint Joe	3 days/week in Port Saint Joe, 2 days in Panama City
<b>Preventive Services</b>					
<b>Facility</b>		<b>Town</b>		<b>Notes</b>	
Sacred Heart Hospital on the Gulf		Port Saint Joe		Multiple preventive services	
Gulf County Health Department		Port Saint Joe and Wewahitchka		Multiple preventive services	
Wewahitchka Medical Center FQHC		Wewahitchka		Multiple preventive services	
<b>Prenatal Care</b>					
<b>Practice Name</b>	<b>Last Name</b>	<b>First Name</b>	<b>Prof</b>	<b>Town</b>	<b>Notes</b>
Port Saint Joe Medical Clinic (Gulf County Health Department FQHC)	Breland	Henry	MD-OB	Port Saint Joe	Twice per month
	Pennington	Toni	MD-OB		
Wewahitchka Medical Clinic (Gulf County Health Department FQHC)	Breland	Henry	MD-OB	Wewahitchka	Twice per month
	Pennington	Toni	MD-OB		
	Cook	Helen	ARNP		
Shoreline Medical Group	Curry	Elizabeth	MD-Peds	Port Saint Joe	Sees some pregnant mothers
<b>Obstetrical Services</b>					
<b>Practice Name</b>	<b>Last Name</b>	<b>First Name</b>	<b>Prof</b>	<b>Town</b>	<b>Notes</b>
Not Available					
<b>School Health Services</b>					
<b>Provider</b>	<b>School</b>		<b>Town</b>	<b>Notes</b>	
Gulf County Health Department	Port Saint Joe Elementary/Middle School		Port Saint Joe	Full time RN, plus Health Support Techs	
	Port Saint Joe High School		Port Saint Joe	Full time RN, plus Health Support Techs	
	Wewahitchka Elementary/Middle School		Wewahitchka	Full time RN, plus Health Support Techs	
	Wewahitchka High School		Wewahitchka	Full time RN, plus Health Support Techs	

## Other Health Services

Mental Health Services					
Practice Name	Last Name	First Name	Prof	Town	Notes
Port Saint Joe Medical Clinic (Gulf County Health Department FQHC)	Nance	Jill	LCSW	Port Saint Joe	
Wewahitchka Medical Clinic (Gulf County Health Department FQHC)	Nance	Jill	LCSW	Wewahitchka	
Sacred Heart Hospital on the Gulf	Ray	Samatha	MSW	Port Saint Joe	
Life Management Center of Northwest Florida	Howard	Omar	MD-Psych	Port Saint Joe	
	Gibson	Nancy	ARNP-Psych		
	Jones	Cheryl	Licensed MH Counselor		
Pharmacy					
Facility		Town		Notes	
CVS Pharmacy		Port Saint Joe			
Buy Rite Drugs		Wewahitchka			
Buy Rite Drugs		Port Saint Joe			
Dental Care					
Practice Name	Last Name	First Name	Prof	Town	Notes
Gulf County Health Department Dental Clinic	Shaw	Thomas	DMD	Port Saint Joe	
	Grinslade	Beverly	Dent Hygienist		
Gulf County Health Department Dental Clinic	Small	Larry	DDS	Wewahitchka	
	Fults	Patricia	Dent Hygienist		
Advanced & Gentle Dental Care	Lister	David	Dentist	Wewahitchka	
	O'Bryan	Sandra	Dent Hygienist		
Individuals:	May	Frank	Dentist	Port Saint Joe	
	Wright	Linda	Dent Hygienist	In Dr May's practice	
	Bush	Anealia	Dent Hygienist	In Dr May's practice	
Hospice					
Facility		Town		Notes	
Covenant Hospice		Pensacola		Provides services in Gulf County	
Emerald Coast Hospice		Panama City		Provides services in Gulf County	
Public Health					
Organization		Town		Notes	
Gulf County Health Department		Port Saint Joe and Wewahitchka			

## Special Populations

Domestic Violence					
Organization	Last Name	First Name	Prof	Town	Notes
Port Saint Joe Medical Clinic (Gulf County Health Department FQHC)	Nance	Jill	LCSW	Port Saint Joe	Counseling and support
Wewahitchka Medical Clinic (Gulf County Health Department FQHC)	Nance	Jill	LCSW	Wewahitchka	
Sacred Heart Hospital on the Gulf	Rav	Samatha	MSW	Port Saint Joe	
Life Management Center of Northwest Florida	Howard	Omar	MD-Psych	Port Saint Joe	
	Gibson	Nancy	ARNP-Psych		
	Jones	Cheryl	Licensed MH Counselor		
Salvation Army	Martin	Pam		Port Saint Joe	

## Diagnostic and Treatment Services

Respiratory Therapy Services					
Organization	Last Name	First Name	Prof	Town	Notes
Sacred Heart Hospital on the Gulf	Simmons	Michael	RPT	Port Saint Joe	
	Ward	Jessica	RPT		
	Nelson	Deatrice	RPT		
	Pitts	Nancy	RPT		
	Godber	Christopher	RPT		
	Lefilis	Richard	RPT		
	Mazur	David	RPT		
Physical Therapy Services					
Organization	Last Name	First Name	Prof	Town	Notes
Sacred Heart Hospital on the Gulf	Whitfield	David	PT	Port Saint Joe	
	Santiesteban	Aurelio	PT		
	Thomas	Kimberly	PT		
	Buzzett	JoAnne	ST		
Bridge Nursing Home	Webb	Jennifer	PT	Port Saint Joe	Provides some outpatient PT
	Reisinger	Karen	OT		
	Buzzett	JoAnne	ST		

## **Provider Assessment Summary Tables**

A summary of the providers identified in Gulf County is shown in the table on the following page. In addition, the expected need for provider capacity is provided. This expected need is derived from national standards of providers needed per population. The source of these standards, and the actual method of calculation, is shown in the Services Analysis section of this report. These standards are not available for all services.

Although the provider count identified in this report sometimes shows a number of providers higher than the expected standard, it needs to be recognized that this count is a list of people; it does not reflect those that are working part-time versus full-time. Neither does this list of providers take into account those that are spending some of their practice time seeing patients who reside outside of Gulf County and in-migrating to seek care.

Also, it is very important to realize that this count does not reflect access to services for the low-income and uninsured. Very few private providers will have the financial ability to provide sliding fee discounts or free services.

Some services are not available in Gulf County, such as inpatient substance abuse, obstetrical service, and residential domestic violence services. Not all services are available to the low income, or uninsured, or to Medicaid covered patients.

A more complete discussion of each service is included in the Services Analysis section, which is designed as a stand-alone presentation of each service. These presentations are intended to serve as the baseline data for further in-depth analysis of each service.

## Summary of Gulf County Provider Need and Capacity

Type Of Service	Expected Utilization/Need	Actual (Resources, Providers)	Comments
Acute Care	2,175 admissions for Gulf County residents	2,230 admissions in 2009 to all hospitals. 226 hospitalizations to SHHG for a 5.5 month period following opening	SHHG opened March 15, 2010, and so reporting is for its first six months of operation.
	45-49 needed beds	25 beds	Small hospitals will likely refer very ill and specialty care patients to larger hospitals
Inpatient Substance Abuse	73 admissions are projected for those needing specialty inpatient treatment	No beds	People needing inpatient substance abuse services are admitted to hospitals outside of the County.
Emergency Response	571 transports for those with "high severity/immediate" need ED visits	One Ground-based ALS service in Port St Joe and Wewahitchka	Expected utilization reports "urgent" transports, but there will be many additional "non-urgent" transports.
Emergency Department	7,066 projected visits for County residents	SHHG ED staffed by a roster of 10 physicians	In 2009, 25.7% of ED visits were low acuity—lower than the Statewide rate of 28%
Primary Care	32,770 visits needing 7.8 FTEs	9 physicians and 8 MLPs (people, not FTEs)	Some providers are part time, and some work in multiple locations
Preventive Services	All residents	Three organizations	Health indicators show that illness rates, hospital admissions and ED visits are high for causes that could be prevented
Prenatal Care	1.1 FTEs—138 births in 2009	3 Physicians and 1 ARNP	There are no OB services in the County
Obstetrical			
School Health	Countywide: 2,050 students – 4 schools	Each school is staffed with a full time RN, plus Health Support Techs	
Mental Health	2.8 FTE mental health providers and 0.8 FTE psychiatrist	4 mental health professionals, 1 psychiatrist	
Pharmacy	N/A	Three pharmacies	
Dental Care	3.3 FTEs	4 dentists and 5 hygienists	
Hospice	192 patients	Two hospice providers	Both providers are based outside Gulf County
Public Health	N/A	Countywide program	Multiple programs and services
Domestic Violence	5 reported cases in 2009	Shelter House for support and referrals, 4 mental health professionals, 1 psychiatrist	Life Management staff, if applicable
Respiratory Therapy	N/A	9 therapists at SHHG	
Physical Therapy	N/A	8 therapists	4 of the therapists are at Bridge Nursing Home, which provides some outpatient services





# Gulf County Community Health Survey

The Gulf County Health Department (GCHD) conducted a second survey. The survey was conducted over the course of several weeks in focus groups and individual surveys throughout Gulf County. Some of the results of the survey were presented in the previous Gulf County Community Health Status Profile.



## INTRODUCTION

This Survey includes extensive demographic data for each respondent, reports of personal experiences accessing health care, factors important for a “Healthy Community”, rankings of “Important Health Problems” in the community, and rankings of “Important Risky Behaviors”. Results are included in appropriate sections and in Summary format for the communitywide factors. A total of 346 surveys were completed with the following community representation:

Apalachicola	Mexico Beach	Port St Joe	Wewahitchka	Total
1	21	258	66	346
0%	6%	75%	19%	100%

There were 32 questions on the survey. The survey had six sections, which include:

- Access to Medical Services (4 questions)
- Access to Dental Services (4 questions)
- Health Insurance (9 questions)
- Medications/Pharmacy (5 questions)
- Awareness/Information (4 questions)
- Mental Health (2 questions)

Five questions focused on specific health issues. These include:

- 3 Most Important Factors for a Healthy Community
- 3 Most Important Health Problems
- 3 Most Important Risky Behaviors
- How would you rate our Community as a Healthy Community?
- How would you rate your Personal Health?

A listing of the survey questions and the response percentages is displayed on the following page.

<b>Access to Medical Services</b>	<b>Total Responses</b>	<b>Percent Agree</b>	<b>Percent Disagree</b>
I have a doctor or clinic that I go to for my routine health care.	305	82%	18%
I have had a regular physical exam during the past year.	344	42%	58%
The doctor's office or clinic is close to my home	295	64%	36%
I or a family member am able to get health care	325	71%	29%
<b>Access to Dental Services</b>	<b>Total Responses</b>	<b>Percent Agree</b>	<b>Percent Disagree</b>
I have had a dental exam or cleaning in the past year	339	45%	55%
The dentist's office is close to my home	312	53%	47%
I or a family member received dental care during the past year	314	51%	49%
I or a family member was unable to get dental care we need	318	78%	22%
<b>Health Insurance</b>	<b>Total Responses</b>	<b>Percent Agree</b>	<b>Percent Disagree</b>
I have health insurance that covers my health care needs.	282	30%	70%
My family's health care needs are covered by health insurance.	299	34%	66%
Health insurance is available through my job.	319	34%	66%
I can afford to buy health insurance through my job.	304	22%	78%
I do not have health insurance	330	37%	63%
I do not want health insurance	335	1%	99%
I have tried to get health insurance for myself or family and could not get it.	318	63%	37%
I or a family member had an illness that was not treated because we did not have health insurance.	317	42%	58%
I know where I can go for health care even if I don't have	316	65%	35%
<b>Medications/Pharmacy</b>	<b>Total Responses</b>	<b>Percent Agree</b>	<b>Percent Disagree</b>
I can afford to buy medicine my doctor tells me a family member or I need to take.	326	46%	54%
I can afford the health care I believe my family or I need.	277	42%	58%
My doctor or clinic helps me get medicine my family or I need that we cannot afford.	319	57%	43%
I have used someone else's medicine because I could not buy my own.	222	15%	85%
I take the medicine my doctor tells me to take to control my chronic illness.	306	49%	51%
<b>Awareness/Information</b>	<b>Total Responses</b>	<b>Percent Agree</b>	<b>Percent Disagree</b>
I know where to go to get information on health care and staying healthy.	311	80%	20%
I know about programs in my community that can help me become healthier.	284	50%	50%
I know how to get end-of-life care or hospice care in my community.	279	28%	72%
I am satisfied with the level of health care available in my community.	281	55%	45%
<b>Mental Health</b>	<b>Total Responses</b>	<b>Percent Agree</b>	<b>Percent Disagree</b>
I know where to go for mental health services in my community.	328	45%	55%
I know where to go for substance abuse services in my community.	304	28%	72%

<b>3 Most Important Factors for a Healthy Community</b>	<b>Number of Responses</b>	<b>Percent</b>
Access to health care (e.g. family doctor)	167	49%
Good place to raise children	121	35%
Good jobs and healthy economy	112	33%
Low crime/safe neighborhoods	106	31%
Strong family life	89	26%
Clean environment	61	18%
Good schools	55	16%
Affordable housing	51	15%
Low level of child abuse	49	14%
Low adult death and disease rates	44	13%
Religions or spiritual values	43	13%
Excellent race relations	36	10%
Low infant deaths	36	10%
Healthy behaviors and lifestyles	32	9%
Parks and Recreation	20	6%
Arts and cultural events	16	5%
<b>3 Most Important Health Problems</b>	<b>Number of Responses</b>	<b>Percent</b>
Aging population (arthritis, hearing/vision loss, etc)	203	60%
Diabetes	193	57%
Cancers	187	55%
High blood pressure	86	25%
Dental problems	77	23%
Heart disease and stroke	72	21%
Sexually Transmitted Diseases (STDs)	45	13%
Respiratory/Lung disease	41	12%
Child abuse/neglect	31	9%
Motor vehicle crash injuries	31	9%
Teenage Pregnancy	22	6%
Mental health problems	19	6%
Domestic Violence/Rape/Sexual Assault	14	4%
Firearm-related injuries	5	1%
HIV/AIDS	3	1%
Homicide	2	1%
Infant Death	2	1%
Infectious disease (hepatitis, TB, etc)	1	0%
Suicide	1	0%
Other	1	(Fast Food)
<b>3 Most Important Risky Behaviors</b>	<b>Number of Responses</b>	<b>Percent</b>
Alcohol abuse	192	56%
Being overweight	178	52%
Drug abuse	103	30%
Poor eating habits	99	29%
Unsafe sex	90	26%
Not using seat belts/child safety seats	80	23%
Not using birth control	76	22%
Lack of exercise	57	17%
Racism	54	16%
Not getting shots to prevent disease	45	13%
Tobacco use	36	11%
Dropping out of school	25	7%
Other	2	(Gangs, Selling drugs)
<b>How would you rate our community as a healthy community?</b>	<b>Number of Responses</b>	<b>Percent</b>
Very unhealthy	28	8%
Unhealthy	47	14%
Somewhat healthy	109	32%
Healthy	115	33%
Very healthy	46	13%
<b>How would you rate your own personal health?</b>	<b>Number of Responses</b>	<b>Percent</b>
Very unhealthy	12	3%
Unhealthy	14	4%
Somewhat healthy	108	31%
Healthy	122	36%
Very healthy	88	26%



GULF COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT  
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# Gulf County Local Public Health System Assessment

The National Public Health Performance Standards Program (NPHPSP) assessments are intended to help local public health systems answer questions such as "What are the activities and capacities of our public health system?" and "How well are we providing the Essential Public Health Services in our jurisdiction?" The NPHPSP Local Public Health System Assessment was finalized in September 2011. The report is intended to help the Gulf County Health Department gain a good understanding of their performance and move on to the next step in strengthening their public health system.



## LOCAL PUBLIC HEALTH SYSTEM PERFORMANCE ASSESSMENT

The National Public Health Performance Standards Program local instrument was completed in September 2011. The NPHPSP is a partnership effort with community, public and medical health agencies to improve the practice of public health and the performance of public health systems within a state or local community. The *10 Essential Public Health Services* provides the framework for the NPHPSP instrument, and is divided into ten sections (one for each Essential Service). The *10 Essential Public Health Services* are:

1. **Monitor** health status to identify community health problems.
2. **Diagnose and investigate** health problems and health hazards in the community.
3. **Inform, educate, and empower** people about health issues.
4. **Mobilize** community partnerships to identify and solve health problems.
5. **Develop policies and plans** that support individual and community health efforts.
6. **Enforce** laws and regulations that protect health and ensure safety.
7. **Link** people to needed personal health services and assure the provision of health care when otherwise unavailable.
8. **Assure** a component of public and personal health care workforce.
9. **Evaluate** effectiveness, accessibility and quality of personal and population-based health services.
10. **Research** for new insights and innovative solutions to health problems.

The scoring methodology for the LPHPSP is based on a quartile scoring system for each area. The NPHPSP assessment instruments guide local jurisdictions in evaluating their current performance against a set of nationally established standards.

The NPHPSP assessment instruments are constructed using the Essential Public Health Services (EPHS) as a framework. Within the Local Instrument, each EPHS includes between 2-4 model standards that describe the key aspects of an optimally performing public health system. Each model standard is followed by assessment questions that serve as measures of performance. Each site's responses to these questions should indicate how well the model standard -

which portrays the highest level of performance or "gold standard" - is being met.

Sites responded to assessment questions using the following response options below. These same categories are used in this report to characterize levels of activity for Essential Services and model standards.

NO ACTIVITY	0% or absolutely no activity.
MINIMAL ACTIVITY	Greater than zero, but no more than 25% of the activity described within the question is met.
MODERATE ACTIVITY	Greater than 25%, but no more than 50% of the activity described within the question is met.
SIGNIFICANT ACTIVITY	Greater than 50%, but no more than 75% of the activity described within the question is met.
OPTIMAL ACTIVITY	Greater than 75% of the activity described within the question is met.

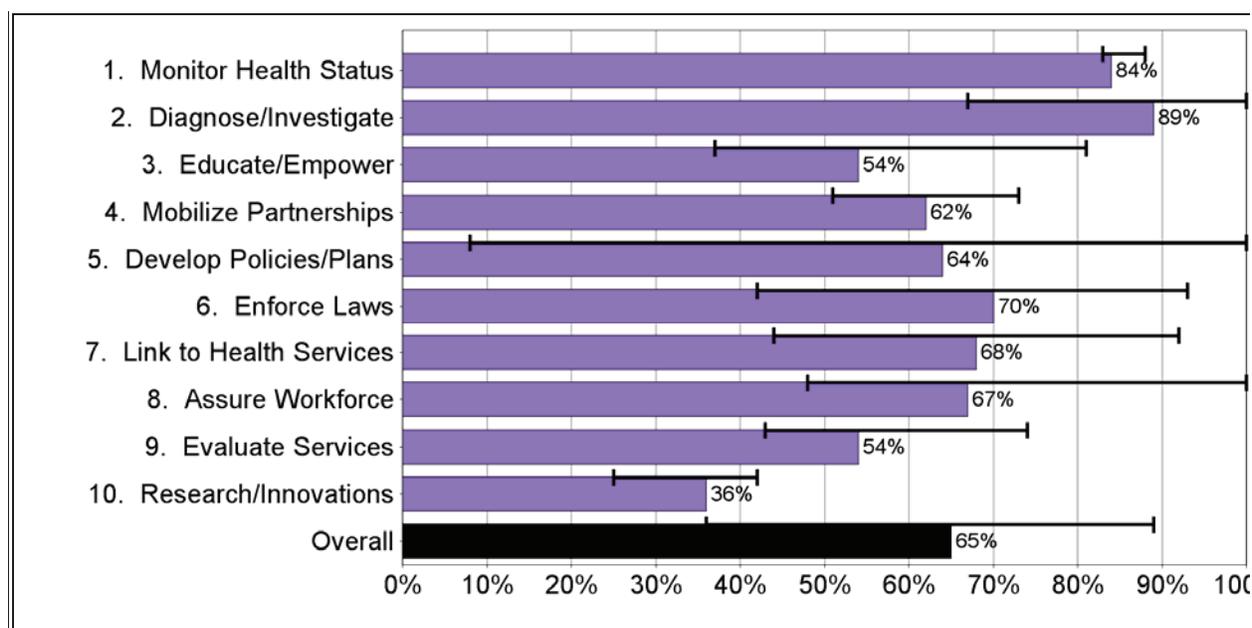
Using the responses to all of the assessment questions, a scoring process generates scores for each first-tier or "stem" question, model standard, Essential Service, and one overall score. The scoring methodology is available from CDC or can be accessed on-line at <http://www.cdc.gov/nphpsp/conducting.html>.

The Essential Service area that had the lowest performance score was *Research for New Insights and Innovative Solutions to Health Problems* (36%) and the highest performance score was in the area of *Diagnose And Investigate Health Problems and Health Hazards* (89%). The figures on the following pages summarize the 2011 LPHPSP scores for Gulf County across the *10 Essential Public Health Services*. These tables and figures are from the NPHPSP report for Gulf County.

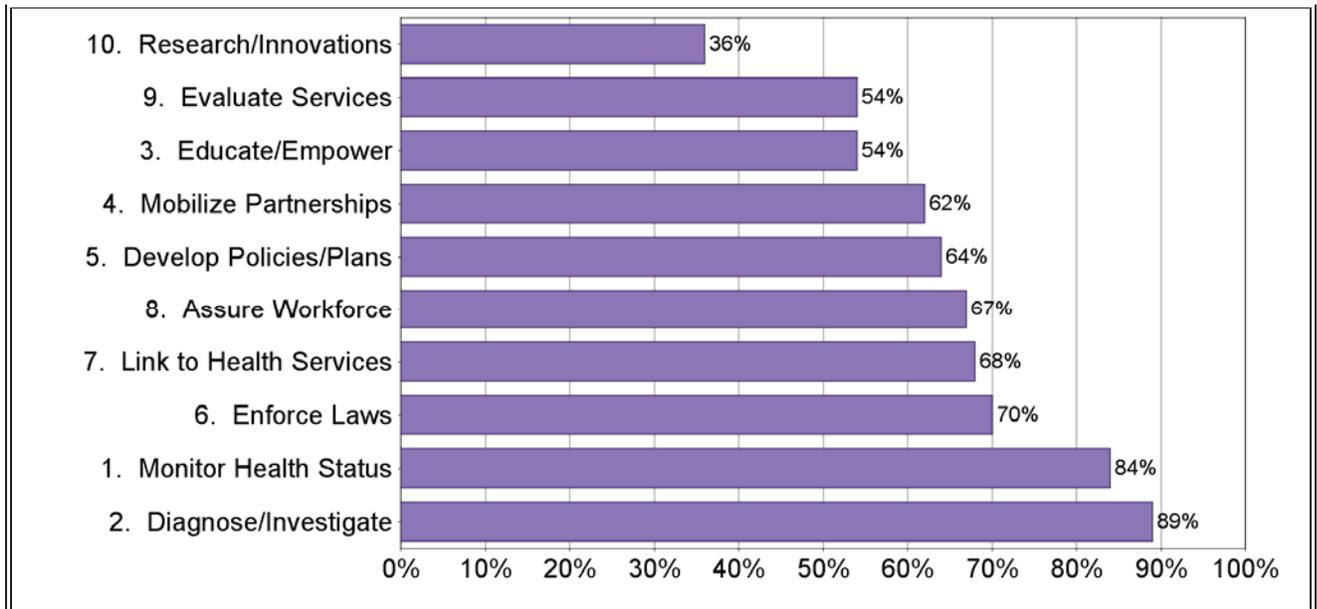
## Summary of performance scores by Essential Public Health Service (EPHS)

EPHS		Score
1	Monitor Health Status To Identify Community Health Problems	84
2	Diagnose And Investigate Health Problems and Health Hazards	89
3	Inform, Educate, And Empower People about Health Issues	54
4	Mobilize Community Partnerships to Identify and Solve Health Problems	62
5	Develop Policies and Plans that Support Individual and Community Health Efforts	64
6	Enforce Laws and Regulations that Protect Health and Ensure Safety	70
7	Link People to Needed Personal Health Services and Assure the Provision of Health Care when Otherwise Unavailable	68
8	Assure a Competent Public and Personal Health Care Workforce	67
9	Evaluate Effectiveness, Accessibility, and Quality of Personal and Population-Based Health Services	54
10	Research for New Insights and Innovative Solutions to Health Problems	36
Overall Performance Score		65

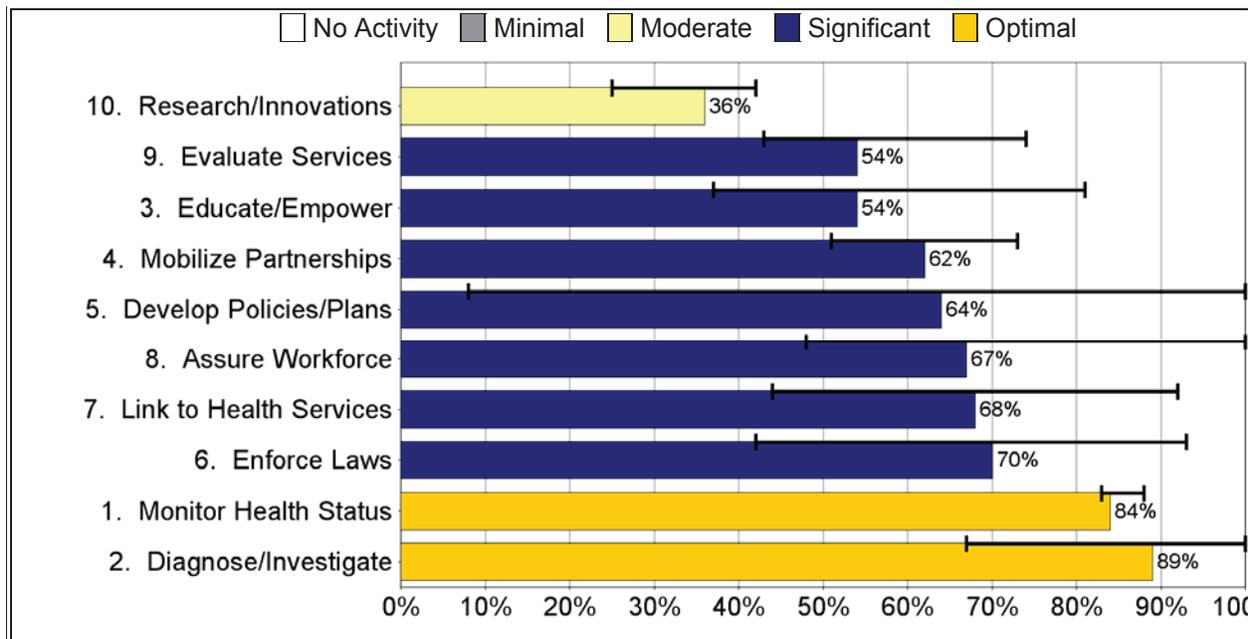
## Summary of EPHS performance scores and overall score (with range)



### Rank ordered performance scores for each Essential Service



### Rank ordered performance scores for each Essential Service, by level of activity





# Forces of Change Assessment

As part of the “Mobilizing for Action through Planning and Partnerships” (MAPP) project in Gulf County Forces of Change Assessment was conducted in September 8, 2012. The purpose of the Forces of Change Assessment is to identify what is occurring or might occur that impacts the health of the community and local public health system.



## METHODS

The Forces of Change Assessment session was conducted on September 8, 2011. Participants were welcomed to the session by the Gulf County Health Department Administrator, Ms. Marsha Lindeman. After reviewing the agenda, participants examined the Gulf County Community Health data which was provided at the beginning of the session. This data included:

- Gulf County 2012 Community Health Survey results
- Gulf County 2010 CHARTS Summary
- U.S. Census Quick Facts for Gulf County

Participants reviewed the data individually and identified key health issues and/or needs for Gulf County residents. The session participants then conducted a *Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities, Threats (SWOT)* analyses.

## RESULTS

Strengths	Weaknesses
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Gulf/Franklin Community College accessible</li> <li>• Workforce center</li> <li>• Educational partnerships</li> <li>• Meth Education (provided by the sheriff's department)</li> <li>• School nurses</li> <li>• Health education classes (drug abuse)</li> <li>• Medicaid enrollment personnel</li> <li>• Community size</li> <li>• Hospital</li> <li>• Health department</li> <li>• Health clinics</li> <li>• Home health care</li> <li>• Health fairs</li> <li>• Sliding fee discount for healthcare visits</li> <li>• Churches</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Status quo within the system</li> <li>• Motivation and empowerment</li> <li>• economy</li> <li>• Increase in youth substance abuse</li> <li>• Mobile meth labs</li> <li>• Obesity</li> <li>• Lack of cancer screenings</li> <li>• Lack of employment</li> <li>• Separation of cities in Gulf County</li> <li>• Budget cuts</li> <li>• Increase in chronic diseases</li> <li>• Limited grant writers</li> <li>• Waiting lists for services</li> <li>• No local access (a lot of out of county referrals)</li> <li>• Perception of "No Opportunity"</li> <li>• Lack of assistance tracker (ex. Church to church)</li> <li>• Community not aware of resources</li> <li>• No GED program for adults</li> <li>• Lack of educational materials</li> <li>• Increase in oral health issues</li> </ul>

Opportunities	Threats
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• School staff in-service (drugs)</li> <li>• Integrate services – health clinics, partnering, networks</li> <li>• Common Medicaid enrollment (Medical Home)</li> <li>• Utilizing organizations re-funding available (transportation, rent)</li> <li>• Smoke-free County buildings (Tobacco)</li> <li>• Grant writer (funding for services/referrals, Home Health, Mobile Services, Screenings)</li> <li>• Improve services (local access)</li> <li>• Resource guide/database for assistance</li> <li>• Education system (available – need to utilize it)</li> <li>• Online education – GED</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Community awareness</li> <li>• Access to care</li> <li>• Linkage of resources</li> <li>• Prioritizing of needs</li> <li>• Stakeholder participation</li> <li>• Unhealthy lifestyle choices</li> <li>• Not enough grant writers</li> <li>• Barriers in eligibility</li> <li>• Complacency/motivation</li> <li>• Mental illness (depression, etc.)</li> <li>• Medication costs</li> <li>• Presence of resources in the community</li> <li>• Transportation</li> <li>• Lack of funding for programs</li> <li>• High tobacco use</li> <li>• Education levels decreasing</li> <li>• Timeliness for referrals (have to wait too long)</li> <li>• Turf guarding</li> <li>• Child care</li> </ul>





# Community Themes and Strengths Assessment

Community perceptions of the health care system are a critical part of the MAPP process. Focus groups and interviews were conducted in 2012 to examine the experiences with and knowledge of the public health system in order to provide information for identifying health priorities.



## INTRODUCTION

Key Informants were identified for participation in focus groups and interviews. A total of 17 individuals participated in two focus groups—one in the Wewahitchka area and one in the Port Saint Joe area. They were asked to give a numerical ranking to their perception of the quality and access of each service, to indicate if they believed a change is needed in that service, and to provide written comments. Results are reported by area, and as combined for all of Gulf County.

Each participant completed a form on which they gave a “rank” of between 1 and 5 for quality and for access. A score of 1 was a rank of Poor—a score of 5 was a rank of Excellent. Participants were specifically instructed to not focus on any kind of scientific definition of quality, or of access. They were to simply indicate their personal impression. In addition, they were asked to simply make a check mark next to the service if they believed that some change was needed in that service. All responses were anonymous. The responses were tabulated into a database to create an average score of quality and access for each service. If the individual left a score blank, that blank did not affect the average. In addition, participants were invited to provide written comments. These comments are included in the Services Analysis Section.

## RESULTS

In addition to comments about the specific services listed, other issues generated general comments, as follows:

### **Other Topics/Suggestions - Wewahitchka Area**

- Poor living conditions especially for children
- Need more family education, support or parenting classes
- Need access to community activities like a pool, organized activities, after school programs, etc. There is a good 4H program in Wewa and the Gulf Alliance for Local Arts is going to host an 8 week summer program for children in Port St. Joe
- Need for optometry services in Wewahitchka
- Need for more orthopedic services in the county
- Huge transportation issues, especially to get out of Wewa to go to work, get groceries, etc.

### **Other Topics/Suggestions - Port Saint Joe Area:**

- We need some type of indoor swimming facility in Gulf County to meet both recreational and rehabilitation needs
- We need arthritis classes
- Dialysis services are now available, which will meet a great need for patients and families who used to have to travel to Panama City for these services
- There are huge transportation issues in Gulf County if you can't drive
- Greater access to eye care services, eye surgeries and dermatologists would be nice
- Home health agencies provide services, but consistency is not satisfactory

## Rankings of Key Informant Interviews—Wewahitchka Area

Those services with scores of 4.5 or higher for Quality and Access are highlighted, as are those with scores of below 3.0. Those services with the highest number of responses indicating a change was needed in the service are also highlighted. A score of 1 is "Poor" and a score of 5 is "Excellent".

Service	Quality
Emergency Response	4.88
Public Health	4.83
Acute Care	4.75
Dental Care	4.71
Emergency Department	4.63
School Health	4.29
Pharmacy Services	4.29
Hospice	4.29
Primary Care Practices	4.25
Preventive Services	4.25
Physical Therapy	3.50
Domestic Violence	3.33
Prenatal Care	3.25
Respiratory Therapy	3.00
Obstetrical	3.00
Mental Health	2.00
Inpatient Substance Abuse	0.00

Service	Access
Emergency Response	4.88
Public Health	4.86
Acute Care	4.50
Primary Care	4.38
School Health	4.38
Hospice	4.29
Pharmacy	4.25
Dental Care	4.13
Emergency Department	4.13
Preventive Services	4.13
Physical Therapy	3.20
Domestic Violence	2.71
Respiratory Therapy	2.50
Mental Health	2.33
Prenatal Care	2.33
Obstetrical	2.20
Inpatient Substance Abuse	2.00

Service	Change Needed
Mental Health	3
Obstetrical	3
Prenatal Care	3
Inpatient Substance Abuse	2
Preventive Services	2
Acute Care	1
Emergency Department	1
Emergency Response	1
Primary Care	1
Dental Care	0
Domestic Violence	0
Hospice	0
Pharmacy	0
Physical Therapy	0
Public Health	0
Respiratory Therapy	0
School Health	0

## Rankings of Key Informant Interviews—Port Saint Joe Area

Those services with scores of 4.5 or higher for Quality and Access are highlighted, as are those with scores of below 3.0. Those services with the highest number of responses indicating a change was needed in the service are also highlighted.

Service	Quality
School Health	4.67
Hospice	4.60
Acute Care	4.57
Physical Therapy	4.33
Respiratory Therapy	4.33
Dental Care	3.88
Emergency Department	3.83
Pharmacy	3.63
Public Health	3.63
Mental Health	3.50
Emergency Response	3.14
Domestic Violence	3.00
Preventive Services	3.00
Primary Care	2.13
Obstetrical	1.00
Prenatal Care	1.00
Inpatient Substance	0.00

Service	Access
School Health	4.67
Acute Care	4.63
Emergency Department	4.43
Hospice	4.00
Respiratory Therapy	3.67
Public Health	3.43
Physical Therapy	3.33
Preventive Services	3.22
Dental Care	3.00
Domestic Violence	2.80
Pharmacy	2.78
Mental Health	2.60
Emergency Response	2.44
Primary Care	1.88
Obstetrical	1.00
Prenatal Care	1.00
Inpatient Substance Abuse	0.00

Service	Change Needed
Dental Care	1
Emergency Response	1
Inpatient Substance Abuse	1
Obstetrical	1
Prenatal Care	1
Acute Care	0
Domestic Violence	0
Emergency Department	0
Hospice	0
Mental Health	0
Pharmacy	0
Physical Therapy	0
Preventive Services	0
Primary Care	0
Public Health	0
Respiratory Therapy	0
School Health	0

### Rankings of Key Informant Interviews—Wewahitchka and Port Saint Joe Areas Combined

Those services with scores of 4.5 or higher for Quality and Access are highlighted, as are those with scores of below 3.0. Those services with the highest number of responses indicating a change was needed in the service are also highlighted.

Service	Quality
Acute Care	4.67
Hospice	4.42
School Health	4.40
Emergency Department	4.29
Dental Care	4.27
Public Health	4.14
Emergency Response	4.07
Physical Therapy	4.00
Pharmacy	3.93
Respiratory Therapy	3.67
Preventive Services	3.63
Domestic Violence	3.22
Primary Care	3.19
Prenatal Care	2.80
Mental Health	2.60
Obstetrical	2.60
Inpatient Substance Abuse	0.00

Service	Access
Acute Care	4.56
School Health	4.45
Emergency Department	4.27
Hospice	4.17
Public Health	4.14
Preventive Services	3.65
Emergency Response	3.59
Dental Care	3.56
Pharmacy	3.47
Physical Therapy	3.27
Respiratory Therapy	3.20
Primary Care Practices	3.13
Inpatient Substance Abuse	3.00
Domestic Violence	2.75
Mental Health	2.45
Prenatal Care	2.00
Obstetrical	1.86

Service	Change Needed
Obstetrical	4
Prenatal Care	4
Inpatient Substance Abuse	3
Mental Health	3
Emergency Response	2
Preventive Services	2
Acute Care	1
Dental Care	1
Emergency Department	1
Primary Care Practices	1
Domestic Violence	0
Hospice	0
Pharmacy	0
Physical Therapy	0
Public Health	0
Respiratory Therapy	0
School Health	0

## SERVICES ANALYSIS

This section of the report is where all the previous information gets pulled together—by service type.

Each of the Services to be Evaluated is described in the Services Analysis section. Within this section of the report, each service is designed to basically be a stand-alone discussion, and is described by the following points:

- Description of Service – A basic definition.
- Description of Need – Issues related to how serious the need for local services is, i.e. health status, etc.
- Standards (Expected Utilization) – How many providers are predicted to be needed for the resident population.
- The formula for the standard is included (where available) to allow further discussion of each service and modification of the standard based on population changes.
- Resources – How much of the service (how many providers) are available in Gulf County, based on the number of
- people identified—not the actual FTE spent in delivering the service.
- Key Informant Interview Results – Interview ratings (on a scale of 1-5—poor to excellent) of Quality and Access, plus an indication of whether or not a change in the service was needed, plus comments. There were 9 respondents in the Port Saint Joe area and 8 in the Wewahitchka area. Scoring of average ratings (Quality and Access) is the average of the number of people responding to the question.

The intent of this section is to provide the information gathered during this study, but it also intended to provide a snapshot picture of each service as a baseline for future study.

## Gulf County Health Status Indicators Summary

Gulf County Health Status Indicator	Acute Care	Inpatient Substance Abuse	Emergency Response	Emergency Department	Primary Care	Preventive Services	Prenatal	Obstetrical	School Health	Mental Health	Pharmacy	Dental Care	Hospice	Public Health	Domestic Violence	Respiratory Therapy	Physical Therapy
The adult lifecycle population is higher than statewide, so services need to anticipate a growing elderly population	X		X	X	X	X					X		X	X		X	X
The percent population with incomes <100% FPL is 32% higher than Statewide	X	X		X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X		X	X		
There are at least 4,623 individuals with incomes <200% FPL—the level most fee discount programs begin	X			X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X		X	X		
25% of Gulf County children and living in poverty—a rate that is 35% higher than Statewide	X			X	X	X			X	X	X	X		X			
The percent females living in poverty is 58% higher than Statewide	X			X	X	X	X	X		X	X	X		X			
There are 3,844 people in Gulf County that have no health insurance, a rate 66% higher than Statewide	X			X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X		X			
The percent uninsured for those age 45-64, is 82% higher than Statewide.	X			X	X	X				X	X	X		X			
70% of respondents to the GCHD Survey stated that they do not have insurance that meets their health care needs.	X			X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X		X			
In 2008, the percent of children in poverty is 135% the state rate, while the percent enrolled in Medicaid is lower than statewide	X			X	X	X			X	X	X	X		X			
There were 138 births in the County in 2009	X				X	X	X	X	X		X			X			
Ranks in the 3rd Quartile for the number of births to uninsured women	X				X	X	X	X	X		X			X			
Ranks 13th out of 67 Counties for "unsafe sex"					X	X	X	X	X	X	X			X			
Ranks in the 2nd Quartile for the number of teen births	X				X	X	X	X	X	X	X			X			
Ranks in the 4th Quartile for the incidence of low birth weight babies	X				X	X	X	X	X					X			
Ranks in the 4th Quartile for premature births	X				X	X	X	X	X					X			
Ranks in the 3rd Quartile for Infant mortality for the 2007-2009 period	X				X	X	X	X	X	X				X			
The incidence of bacterial STDs for women increased 98% from 2004 to 2009					X	X			X					X			
For the sixteen causes of death listed, the premature death rate was higher than statewide in twelve disease categories	X		X	X	X	X				X	X		X	X			
The rate of premature deaths from chronic lower respiratory disease is 84% higher than statewide	X				X	X			X	X	X		X	X		X	X
Mortality from unintentional injuries is 37% higher than statewide	X	X	X	X	X	X			X	X				X			

Gulf County Health Status Indicator	Acute Care	Inpatient Substance Abuse	Emergency Response	Emergency Department	Primary Care	Preventive Services	Prenatal	Obstetrical	School Health	Mental Health	Pharmacy	Dental Care	Hospice	Public Health	Domestic Violence	Respiratory Therapy	Physical Therapy
Mortality from diabetes is more than twice the statewide rate	X				X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X			X
Mortality from pneumonia/influenza is 22% higher than statewide	X				X	X			X				X	X		X	X
The percent of youth who smoke is twice the state rate					X	X	X	X	X	X		X		X		X	
Percent of youth reporting binge drinking is 35% higher than statewide	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X				X	X		
Percent of youth reporting use of Club Drugs, Methamphetamines and Prescription Amphetamines and heroin are all more than twice the statewide rate	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X				X	X		
The percent of youth reporting use of Cocaine or Crack Cocaine is 413% the statewide rate	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X				X	X		
The Gulf County percent of all adults who received a flu shot in the past year decreased 7.9%, while the State rate increased 3.8%	X				X	X								X			
The Gulf County percent of adults 65 and older who received a flu shot in the past year decreased 20.7%, while the State rate increased 0.7%.	X				X	X								X			
The incidence of arthritis in the 18-44 age group is more than double the State rate	X				X	X				X	X			X			X
The incidence of asthma in those ≥65 is 73% higher than Statewide	X		X	X	X	X			X	X	X			X		X	
Those ≥65 have heart disease at a rate 53% higher than Statewide	X		X	X	X	X				X	X		X	X			X
51% of participants in the GCHD Survey reported NOT taking prescribed medications to control chronic disease	X				X	X							X	X			
The rate of those ≥65 reporting good mental health dropped from 95% in 2007 to 86% in 2010	X				X	X				X	X			X			
4th Quartile ranking for adults who are overweight	X				X	X				X				X			X
4th Quartile ranking for adult heavy or binge drinking	X	X	X	X	X	X				X			X	X	X		
From 2007 to 2010, the percent of residents age 65 and older reporting excessive drinking doubled, and the rate of excessive drinking in the 45-64 age group is 171% of the State rate.	X	X	X	X	X	X				X				X	X		
The percent of adult residents who smoke tobacco is 174% the State rate.					X	X	X	X	X	X		X		X		X	
The Gulf County rate of alcohol-related vehicle crash deaths is 447% the State rate.	X	X	X	X	X	X			X	X				X			
More than twice as many adult residents report cocaine use than marijuana use	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X				X	X		

Gulf County Health Status Indicator	Acute Care	Inpatient Substance Abuse	Emergency Response	Emergency Department	Primary Care	Preventive Services	Prenatal	Obstetrical	School Health	Mental Health	Pharmacy	Dental Care	Hospice	Public Health	Domestic Violence	Respiratory Therapy	Physical Therapy
55% of participants in the GCHD Survey stated they are not aware of resources for mental health, and 72% stated they are not aware of resources for substance abuse services.	X		X	X	X	X	X	X	X				X	X	X		
Child abuse is ranked in the 3rd Quartile	X		X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X				X	X		
The percent of women age who have had a mammogram within the past two years is 84% the state rate					X	X								X			
The percent of women age 45-64 who had a Pap test in the past year is 81% the state rate					X	X								X			
Percent of adults who had blood stool test in the past year is 68% the state rate					X	X								X			
The percent of diabetics who had self management education is 77% the state rate					X	X								X			
50% of GCHD Survey participants know about community preventive programs	X				X	X	X	X	X	X				X			
Out of 25 preventive care criteria with Quartile rankings, Gulf County ranked in the 4th Quartile in 15	X				X	X	X	X	X	X				X			
The percent of adults age 45-64 who could not see a doctor at least once in the past year due to cost is 88% higher than statewide	X			X	X	X					X			X			
The percent of adults age ≥65 who could not see a doctor at least once in the past year due to cost is more than double the Statewide rate	X			X	X	X								X			
In the GCHD Survey 78% of respondents reported being unable to get dental care.					X	X						X		X			
In the GCHD Survey, 48% of respondents reported not being able to afford prescribed medications.	X				X	X	X	X	X	X	X			X			
Gulf County has several Federal designations to provide access to programs that can increase provider revenue and benefits to county residents	X		X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X		X	X		

## Acute Care

### Description of Service

Acute care services are those requiring admission to a hospital, including an overnight stay for observation, diagnosis, and active treatment of an individual with a medical condition requiring direction or supervision of a physician.

### Description of Need

- The adult lifecycle population is higher than statewide, so services need to anticipate a growing elderly population
- The population with incomes <100% FPL is 32% higher than Statewide
- There are at least 4,623 individuals with incomes <200% FPL—the level most fee discount programs begin
- 25% of Gulf County children and living in poverty—a rate that is 35% higher than Statewide
- The percent females living in poverty is 58% higher than Statewide
- There are 3,844 people in Gulf County that have no health insurance, a rate 66% higher than Statewide
- The percent uninsured for those age 45-64, is 82% higher than Statewide
- 70% of respondents to the GCHD Survey stated that they do not have insurance that meets their health
- The Gulf County percent of all adults who received a flu shot in the past year decreased 7.9%, while the State rate increased 3.8%
- The Gulf County percent of adults 65 and older who received a flu shot in the past year decreased 20.7%, while the State rate increased 0.7%.
- The incidence of arthritis in the 18-44 age group is more than double the State rate
- The incidence of asthma in those ≥65 is 73% higher than Statewide
- Those ≥65 have heart disease at a rate 53% higher than Statewide
- 51% of participants in the GCHD Survey reported NOT taking prescribed medications to control chronic disease
- The rate of those ≥65 reporting good mental health

#### care needs

- In 2008, the percent of children in poverty is 135% the state rate, while the percent enrolled in Medicaid is lower than statewide
  - There were 138 births in the County in 2009
  - Ranks in the 3rd Quartile for the number of births to uninsured women
  - Ranks in the 2nd Quartile for the number of teen births
  - Ranks in the 4th Quartile for the incidence of low birth weight babies
  - Ranks in the 4th Quartile for premature births
  - Ranks in the 3rd Quartile for Infant mortality for the 2007-2009 period
  - For the sixteen causes of death listed, the premature death rate was higher than statewide in twelve disease categories
  - The rate of premature deaths from chronic lower respiratory disease is 84% higher than statewide
  - Mortality from unintentional injuries is 37% higher than statewide
  - Mortality from diabetes is more than twice the statewide rate
  - Mortality from pneumonia/influenza is 22% higher than
- dropped from 95% in 2007 to 86% in 2010
  - 4th Quartile ranking for adults who are overweight
  - 4th Quartile ranking for adult heavy or binge drinking
  - From 2007 to 2010, the percent of residents  $\geq 65$  reporting excessive drinking doubled, and the rate in the 45-64 age group is 171% of the State rate
  - The Gulf County rate of alcohol-related vehicle crash deaths is 447% the State rate
  - More than twice as many adults report cocaine use than marijuana use
  - 55% of GCHD Survey participants stated they are not aware of resources for mental health, and 72% for substance abuse services.
  - Child abuse is ranked in the 3rd Quartile
  - 50% of GCHD Survey participants know about preventive programs
  - Out of 25 preventive care criteria with Quartile rankings, Gulf County ranked in the 4th Quartile in 15
  - The percent of adults age 45-64 who could not see a doctor at least once in the past year due to cost is 88% higher than statewide
  - The percent of adults age  $\geq 65$  who could not see a doctor at least once in the past year due to cost is more than double the Statewide rate

statewide

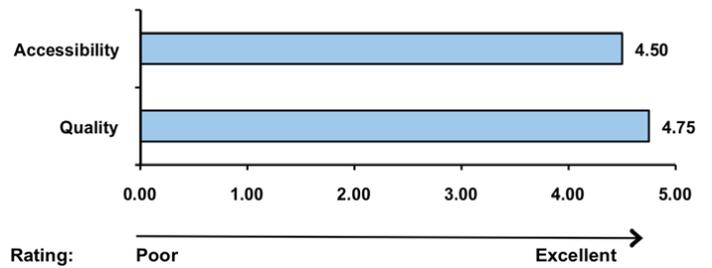
- Percent of youth reporting binge drinking is 35% higher than statewide
- Youth reporting use of Club Drugs, Methamphetamines and Prescription Amphetamines and heroin are all more than twice the statewide rate
- The percent of youth reporting use of Cocaine or Crack Cocaine is 413% the statewide rate
- In the GCHD Survey, 48% of respondents reported not being able to afford prescribed medications.
- Gulf County has several Federal designations to provide access to programs that can increase provider revenue and benefits to county residents

## Key Informant Interview Results

### Wewahitchka

Rating	Quality	Accessibility
Excellent	6	4
Very Good	2	4
Good	0	0
Fair	0	0
Poor	0	0
Number indicating a change in this service is		1

Of those with an opinion, the average score was:



### Comments from surveys:

- Very comfortable with services
- I've heard good things about Sacred Heart
- It takes about 30 minutes to go to Port St. Joe from Wewahitchka
- Uninsured non-emergent patients aren't accepted at Bay Medical if they are Gulf County residents
- Dr. care is good; out of town for hospital care
- Not much acute care available at local hospital – no cardiovascular or trauma services

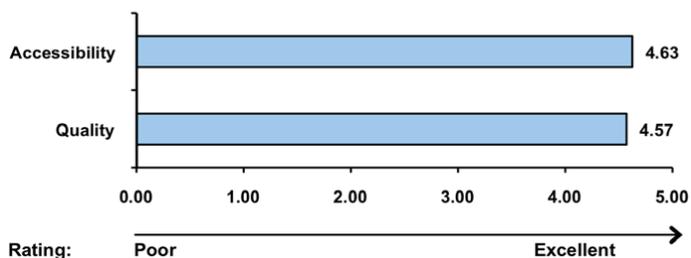
Port Saint Joe

Rating	Quality	Accessibility
Excellent	5	6
Very Good	1	1
Good	1	1
Fair	0	0
Poor	0	0
Number indicating a change in this service is		0

Comments from surveys:

- We know that if you have cardiac problems, you won't be admitted at the hospital; same with strokes, which leads to concern for the availability of such services at Sacred Heart Hospital on the Gulf
- Cardiac services needed
- It's great to have access, but I am not aware of the quality
- Regarding the services that are currently offered, the quality is excellent
- The service was great for a colonoscopy, but I wouldn't feel comfortable with acute care when a higher level of care is necessary
- Not aware of scope of services
- Have heard that patients are often transferred to Panama City

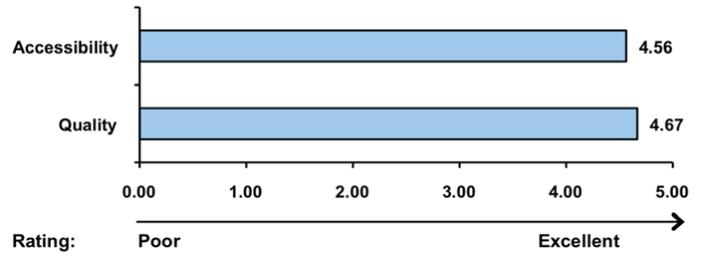
Of those with an opinion, the average score was:



Wewahitchka and Port Saint Joe Combined

Rating	Quality	Accessibility
Excellent	11	10
Very Good	3	5
Good	1	1
Fair	0	0
Poor	0	0
Number indicating a change in this service is		1

Of those with an opinion, the average score was:



## **Inpatient Substance Abuse**

### Description of Service

Inpatient substance abuse services are those requiring admission to a hospital, including an overnight stay for observation, diagnosis, and active treatment of an individual for rehabilitation.

### Description of Need

- The percent population with incomes <100% FPL is 32% higher than Statewide
- Mortality from unintentional injuries is 37% higher than statewide
- Percent of youth reporting binge drinking is 35% higher than statewide
- Percent of youth reporting use of Club Drugs, Methamphetamines and Prescription Amphetamines and heroin are all more than twice the statewide rate
- The percent of youth reporting use of Cocaine or Crack Cocaine is 413% the statewide rate
- 4th Quartile ranking for adult heavy or binge drinking
- From 2007 to 2010, the percent of residents ≥65 reporting excessive drinking doubled, and the rate in the 45-64 age group is 171% of the State rate
- The Gulf County rate of alcohol-related vehicle crash deaths is 447% the State rate
- More than twice as many adult residents report cocaine use than marijuana use

### Resources

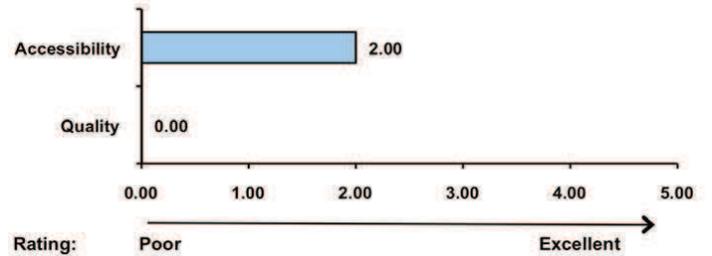
There are no substance abuse treatment beds in Gulf County.

Key Informant Interview Results

Wewahitchka

Rating	Quality	Accessibility
Excellent	0	0
Very Good	0	0
Good	0	0
Fair	0	1
Poor	0	0
Number indicating a change in this service is		2

Of those with an opinion, the average score was:



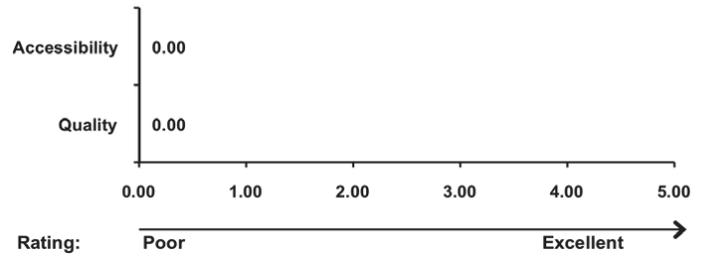
Comments from surveys:

- There is a tremendous need for this service in Gulf County
- Clients go to Bay County for care
- The number of school aged children that have substance abuse issues is in the highest quartile in the state; huge issue especially in middle school particularly with prescription drugs

Port Saint Joe

Rating	Quality	Accessibility
Excellent	0	0
Very Good	0	0
Good	0	0
Fair	0	0
Poor	0	0
Number indicating a change in this service is		1

Of those with an opinion, the average score was:



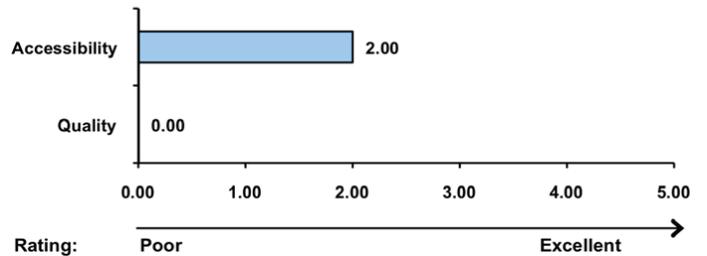
Comments from surveys:

- I know people have come to the ER for these services, but we can't help them long-term here
  - I have looked for an AA group and it was like pulling teeth to find one; there is only one group that meets at the Methodist Church, but it's not always welcoming to new members
- Inpatient substance abuse services are very expensive
- Great need

Wewahitchka and Port Saint Joe Combined

Rating	Quality	Accessibility
Excellent	0	0
Very Good	0	0
Good	0	0
Fair	0	1
Poor	0	0
Number indicating a change in this service is		3

Of those with an opinion, the average score was:



## Emergency Response

### Description of Service

Emergency response services are those provided by ambulance

### Description of Need

- Mortality from unintentional injuries is 37% higher than statewide
- Percent of youth reporting binge drinking is 35% higher than statewide
- Percent of youth reporting use of Club Drugs, Methamphetamines and Prescription Amphetamines and heroin are all more than twice the statewide rate
- The percent of youth reporting use of Cocaine or Crack Cocaine is 413% the statewide rate
- 4th Quartile ranking for adult heavy or binge drinking
- From 2007 to 2010, the percent of residents  $\geq 65$  reporting excessive drinking doubled, and the rate in the 45-64 age group is 171% of the State rate
- The Gulf County rate of alcohol-related vehicle crash deaths is 447% the State rate
- More than twice as many adults report cocaine use than marijuana use
- The adult lifecycle population is higher than statewide, so services need to anticipate a growing elderly population
- For the sixteen causes of death listed, the premature death rate was higher than statewide in twelve disease categories
- The incidence of asthma in those  $\geq 65$  is 73% higher than Statewide
- Those  $\geq 65$  have heart disease at a rate 53% higher than Statewide
- 55% of GCHD Survey participants stated they are not aware of resources for mental health, and 72% are not aware of resources for substance abuse services
- Child abuse is ranked in the 3rd Quartile
- Gulf County has several Federal designations to provide access to programs that can increase provider revenue and benefits to county residents

Resources

Emergency Response		
Organizati	Town	Notes
Gulf County EMS Port Saint Joe	Port Saint Joe	1 full time Advanced Life Support unit with a paramedic and EMT (day and night shifts) 1 additional daytime ALS with paramedic and EMT Third ambulance/crew for back up
Gulf County EMS Wewahitchka	Wewahitchka	1 full time Advanced Life Support unit with a paramedic and EMT  When the ALS unit is on a call, a second team arrives to provide backup services if necessary in the 4th county ambulance

Key Informant Interview Results

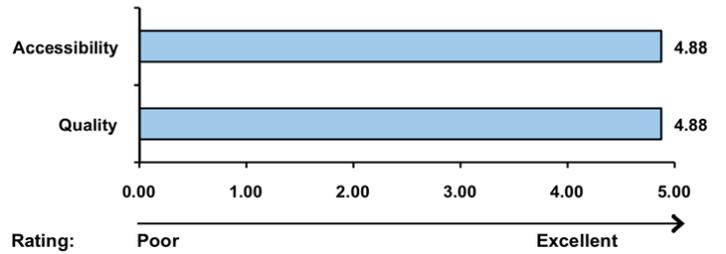
Wewahitchka

Rating	Quality	Accessibility
Excellent	7	7
Very Good	1	1
Good	0	0
Fair	0	0
Poor	0	0
Number indicating a change in this service is needed		1

Comments from surveys:

- Very good response time
- Excellent in response and care
- Additional funds could increase services offered
- People can give a preference of where they would like to go, and EMS will comply as long as the requested facility can meet the need
- Psych 911 calls are on the increase

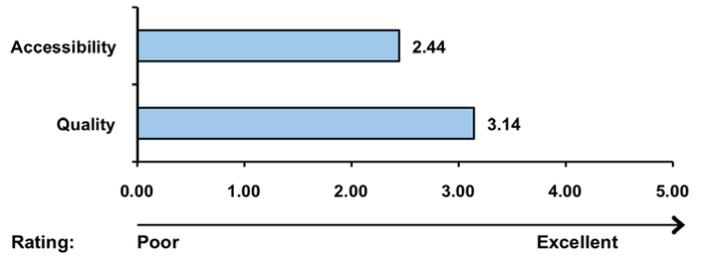
Of those with an opinion, the average score was:



Port Saint Joe

Rating	Quality	Accessibility
Excellent	2	0
Very Good	1	2
Good	1	2
Fair	2	3
Poor	1	2
Number indicating a change in this service is needed		1

Of those with an opinion, the average score was:



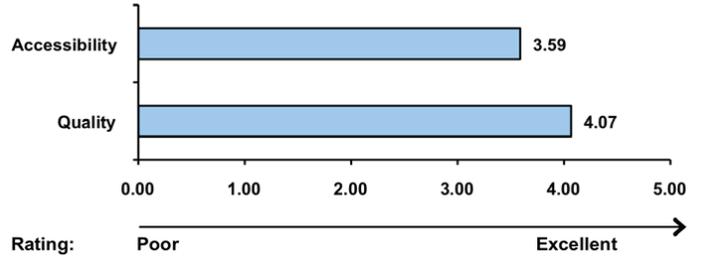
Comments from surveys:

- Not good in remote areas – need satellite stations
- There was an incident in Mexico Beach (Bay County) and it took 20 minutes for the ambulance to arrive; don't know if Bay or Gulf County EMS responded
- Sometimes there are dispatch issues; I don't have an address that is recognized by the 911 system, which is common in Gulf County since there are duplicate street names
- Dispatch is negligible
- Response times could be better
- Great concerns for response time on Cape San Blas
- No personal experience but I hear good things
- Long distances to travel

Wewahitchka and Port Saint Joe Combined

Rating	Quality	Accessibility
Excellent	9	7
Very Good	2	3
Good	1	2
Fair	2	3
Poor	1	2
Number indicating a change in this service is needed		2

Of those with an opinion, the average score was:



## Emergency Department

### Description of Service

Emergency department (ED) services are provided when a patient, or a representative, declares an illness severe enough that immediate attention is warranted, and the patient is presented to the hospital emergency department.

### Description of Need

- Mortality from unintentional injuries is 37% higher than statewide
- Percent of youth reporting binge drinking is 35% higher than statewide
- Percent of youth reporting use of Club Drugs, Methamphetamines, Prescription Amphetamines and heroin are more than twice the statewide rate
- Youth reporting use of Cocaine or Crack Cocaine is 413% the statewide rate
- 4th Quartile ranking for adult heavy or binge drinking
- From 2007 to 2010, the percent of residents  $\geq 65$  reporting excessive drinking doubled, and the rate in the 45-64 age group is 171% of the State rate
- County alcohol-related vehicle crash deaths are 447% the State rate
- More than twice as many adults report cocaine use than marijuana use
- The adult lifecycle population is higher than statewide, so services need to anticipate a growing elderly population
- The percent of adults age  $\geq 65$  who could not see a doctor at least once in the past year due to cost is more than double the Statewide rate
- There were 138 births in the County in 2009
- Ranks in the 3rd Quartile for the number of births to uninsured women
- Ranks in the 2nd Quartile for the number of teen births
- Ranks in the 4th Quartile for the incidence of low birth weight babies
- Ranks in the 4th Quartile for premature births
- Ranks in the 3rd Quartile for Infant mortality for the 2007-2009 period
- Premature death from respiratory disease is 84% higher than statewide
- Mortality from diabetes is more than twice the statewide rate
- Mortality from pneumonia/influenza is 22% higher than statewide

- For the sixteen causes of death listed, the premature death rate was higher than statewide in twelve disease categories
- The incidence of asthma in those ≥65 is 73% higher than Statewide
- Those ≥65 have heart disease at a rate 53% higher than Statewide
- 55% of GCHD Survey participants are not aware of resources for mental health, and 72% are not aware of resources for substance abuse services
- Child abuse is ranked in the 3rd Quartile
- Gulf County has several Federal designations to provide access to programs that can increase provider revenue and benefits to county residents
- The population with incomes <100% FPL is 32% higher than Statewide
- There are at least 4,623 individuals with incomes <200% FPL—the level most fee discount programs begin
- 25% of children live in poverty—a rate that is 35% higher than Statewide
- The percent females living in poverty is 58% higher than Statewide
- There are 3,844 people in Gulf County that have no health insurance, a rate 66% higher than Statewide
- The percent uninsured for those age 45-64, is 82% higher than Statewide
- 70% of respondents to the GCHD Survey stated that they do not have insurance that meets their health
- The Gulf County percent of all adults who received a flu shot in the past year decreased 7.9%, while the State rate increased 3.8%
- The Gulf County percent of adults 65 and older who received a flu shot in the past year decreased 20.7%, while the State rate increased 0.7%
- Arthritis in the 18-44 age group is more than double the State rate
- 51% of participants in the GCHD Survey reported NOT taking prescribed medications to control chronic disease
- Those ≥65 reporting good mental health was 95% in 2007 but 86% in 2010
- 4th Quartile ranking for adults who are overweight
- 50% of GCHD Survey participants know about preventive programs
- Out of 25 preventive care criteria, Gulf County ranked 4th Quartile in 15
- In the GCHD Survey, 48% of respondents reported not being able to afford prescribed medications
- Ranks 13th out of 67 Counties for "unsafe sex"
- The rate of bacterial STDs for women increased 98% from 2004 to 2009
- The percent of youth who smoke is twice the state rate
- The percent of adult residents who smoke tobacco is 174% the

care needs

- In 2008, the percent of children in poverty is 135% the state rate, while the percent enrolled in Medicaid is lower than statewide
- The percent of adults age 45-64 who could not see a doctor at least once in the past year due to cost is 88% higher than statewide

State rate

- The percent of women who had a mammogram within the past two years is 84% the state rate
- Women age 45-64 who had a Pap test in the past year is 81% the state rate
- Adults who had blood stool test in the past year is 68% the state rate
- Diabetics who had self management education is 77% the state rate
- In the GCHD Survey 78% of respondents were unable to get dental care

Resources

Sacred Heart Hospital on the Gulf has a 24-hour Emergency Department. The Florida Agency for Health Care Administration data shows 3,991 reported emergency department visits for the report period October 2009 through September 2010. However, SHHG had only been open 5.5 months of this period.

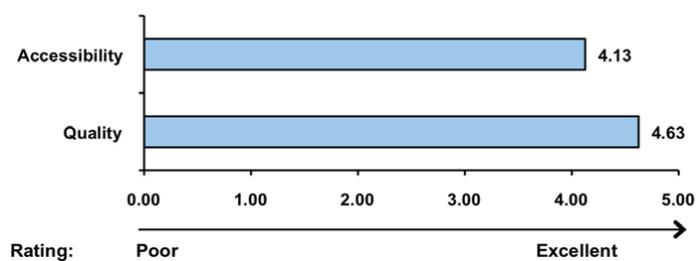
Emergency Department				
Organization	Last Name	First Name	Prof	Town
Sacred Heart Hospital on the Gulf	Cattau	Perry	MD	Port Saint Joe
	Long	Douglas	MD	
	Reese	John	MD	
	Lueck	Cameron	MD	
	Barclay	Derek	MD	
	O'Hagan	John	DO	
	Giddens	Jeffrey	MD	
	Carney-Calisch	Rebecca	MD	
	Landa	Martin	MD	
	Pablo	Gary	MD	

## Key Informant Interview Results

### Wewahitchka

Rating	Quality	Accessibility
Excellent	6	3
Very Good	1	3
Good	1	2
Fair	0	0
Poor	0	0
Number indicating a change in this service is needed		1

Of those with an opinion, the average score was:



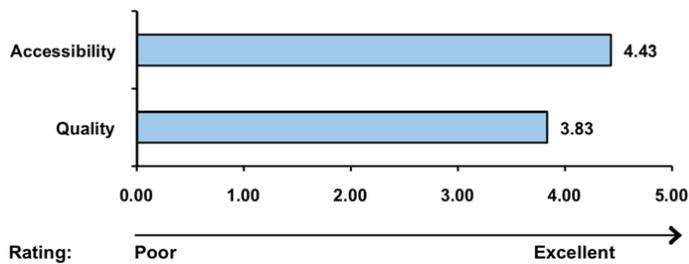
### Comments from surveys:

- Sacred Heart ER was excellent
- Due to size of facility, some services are not available
- Miscommunication about workers comp cases – welcome to use ER
- North part of county has no x-ray services available

Port Saint Joe

Rating	Quality	Accessibility
Excellent	3	5
Very Good	1	1
Good	0	0
Fair	2	1
Poor	0	0
Number indicating a change in this service is needed		0

Of those with an opinion, the average score was:



Comments from surveys:

- Concerns with heart/stroke patients or when higher acuity is necessary
- Alarming number of snake bites in Gulf County
- People still don't realize that the emergency department is open 24/7 and is always staffed by physician
- There isn't enough signage leading to the emergency department from town, especially if you are a tourist and are unfamiliar with the area
- Great to have
- Sacred Heart is wonderful but limited

## Primary Care

### Description of Service

Primary care is the resource of first contact for the patient. A primary care provider—physician or midlevel practitioner (MLP) makes the initial assessment and attempts to solve as many patient problems as possible. These providers coordinate the health care team, including ancillary health personnel and specialists necessary in dealing with patient problems, and provide continuing contact with the patient and his/her family.

### Description of Need

- Mortality from unintentional injuries is 37% higher than statewide
- Percent of youth reporting binge drinking is 35% higher than statewide
- Percent of youth reporting use of Club Drugs, Methamphetamines, Prescription Amphetamines and heroin are more than twice the statewide rate
- The percent of youth reporting use of Cocaine or Crack Cocaine is 413% the statewide rate
- 4th Quartile ranking for adult heavy or binge drinking
- From 2007 to 2010, the percent of residents ≥65 reporting excessive drinking doubled, and the rate in the 45-64 age group is 171% of the State rate
- The rate of alcohol-related vehicle crash deaths is 447% the State rate
- More than twice as many adults report cocaine use than marijuana use
- The adult lifecycle population is higher than statewide, so
- There were 138 births in the County in 2009
- Ranks in the 3rd Quartile for the number of births to uninsured women
- Ranks in the 2nd Quartile for the number of teen births
- Ranks in the 4th Quartile for the incidence of low birth weight babies
- Ranks in the 4th Quartile for premature births
- Ranks in the 3rd Quartile for Infant mortality for the 2007-2009 period
- The rate of premature deaths from chronic lower respiratory disease is 84% higher than statewide
- Mortality from diabetes is more than twice the statewide rate
- Mortality from pneumonia/influenza is 22% higher than statewide
- The Gulf County percent of all adults who received a flu shot in the past year decreased 7.9%, while the

services need to anticipate a growing elderly population

- For the sixteen causes of death listed, the premature death rate was higher than statewide in twelve disease categories
- The incidence of asthma in those  $\geq 65$  is 73% higher than Statewide
- Those  $\geq 65$  have heart disease at a rate 53% higher than Statewide
- 55% of GCHD Survey participants stated they are not aware of resources for mental health, and 72% for substance abuse services
- Child abuse is ranked in the 3rd Quartile
- Gulf County has several Federal designations to provide access to programs that can increase provider revenue and benefits to county residents
- The population with incomes  $< 100\%$  FPL is 32% higher than Statewide
- There are at least 4,623 individuals with incomes  $< 200\%$  FPL—the level most fee discount programs begin
- 25% of Gulf County children live in poverty—a rate 35% higher than Statewide
- The percent females living in poverty is 58% higher than Statewide
- There are 3,844 people in Gulf County that have no health insurance, a rate 66% higher than Statewide
- The percent uninsured for those age 45-64, is 82% higher

State rate increased 3.8%

- The Gulf County percent of adults 65 and older who received a flu shot in the past year decreased 20.7%, while the State rate increased 0.7%
- The incidence of arthritis in the 18-44 age group is more than double the State rate
- 51% of participants in the GCHD Survey reported NOT taking prescribed medications to control chronic disease
- The rate of those  $\geq 65$  reporting good mental health dropped from 95% in 2007 to 86% in 2010
- 4th Quartile ranking for adults who are overweight
- 50% of GCHD Survey participants know about preventive programs
- Out of 25 preventive care criteria with Quartile rankings, Gulf County ranked in the 4th Quartile in 15
- In the GCHD Survey, 48% of respondents reported not being able to afford prescribed medications
- Ranks 13th out of 67 Counties for "unsafe sex"
- The incidence of bacterial STDs for women increased 98% from 2004 to 2009
- The percent of youth who smoke is twice the state rate
- The percent of adult residents who smoke tobacco is 174% the State rate
- The percent of women who had a mammogram within the

than Statewide

- 70% of respondents to the GCHD Survey stated that they do not have insurance that meets their health care needs
- In 2008, the percent of children in poverty is 135% the state rate, while the percent enrolled in Medicaid is lower than statewide
- The percent of adults age 45-64 who could not see a doctor at least once in the past year due to cost is 88% higher than statewide
- The percent of adults age ≥65 who could not see a doctor at least once in the past year due to cost is more than double the Statewide rate

past two years is 84% the state rate

- The percent of women age 45-64 who had a Pap test in the past year is 81% the state rate
- Adults who had blood stool test in the past year is 68% the state rate
- Diabetics who had self management education is 77% the state rate
- In the GCHD Survey 78% reported being unable to get dental care

Resources (unduplicated count totals 9 physicians and 8 MLPs)

Primary Care Practices					
Practice Name	Last Name	First Name	Prof	Town	Notes
Port Saint Joe Medical Clinic (Gulf County Health Department FQHC)	Murphy	Kevin	MD-FP	Port Saint Joe	Medical director and patient care/ Surgeon by training, but providing primary care
	Hunt	Paul	MD-Peds		Provides care in both Port Saint Joe and Wewahitchka Health Department FQHCs as well as North Florida Medical Center's FQHC in Wewahitchka
	Gainer	Zoe	ARNP		
	Cook	Helen	ARNP		
	Jones	Norma	ARNP		
	Conroy	Dolores	ARNP		
Wewahitchka Medical Clinic (Gulf County Health Department FQHC)	Hunt	Paul	MD-Peds	Wewahitchka	Part time—see earlier note
	Woods	John	MD		Start end of May 2011
	Gainer	Zoe	ARNP		
	Cook	Helen	ARNP		
	Jones	Norma	ARNP		
	Conroy	Delores	ARNP		
Shoreline Medical Group	Curry	Elizabeth	MD-Peds	Port Saint Joe	Nephrology also
	Curry	Thomas	MD-IM		
	Williams	Carolyn	PA		
	Brown	Patrick	MD—IM		

Wewahitchka Medical Center (North Florida Medical Centers FQHC)	Hunt	Paul	MD-Peds	Wewahitchka	Part time—see earlier note
	Turner	Beckie	ARNP		
	Rubin	Ann	PA		
Sacred Heart Medical Group	Masters	Clay	ARNP	Port Saint Joe	with Richard Brunner, MD (surgeon), but provides basic primary care
Individuals:	Barnes	Michael	MD-FP	Wewahitchka	
	Ivers	Vincent	MD-IM	Port Saint Joe	2-3 days/week in Port Saint Joe, also in Panama City
	Oksanen	Owen	MD-FP	Port Saint Joe	3 days/week in Port Saint Joe, 2 days in Panama City

## Key Informant Interview Results

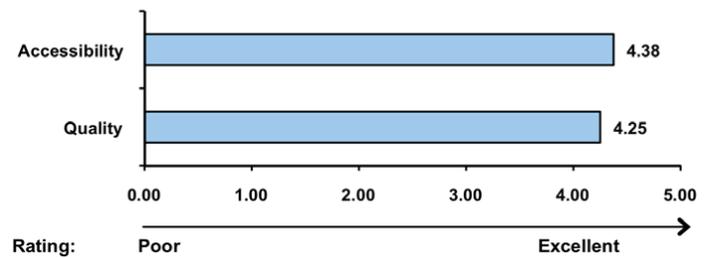
### Wewahitchka

Rating	Quality	Accessibility
Excellent	3	4
Very Good	4	3
Good	1	1
Fair	0	0
Poor	0	0
Number indicating a change in this service is needed		1

### Comments from surveys:

- Gulf County Health Dept (GCHD) – have heard both good and bad
- Good doctors but no pediatricians in Wewa besides GCHD provider a few days a week
- GCHD is expanding hours to include five 10-hour days to improve access before and after work
- Limited number of physicians in area
- We have good family doctors
- No specialized care for peds available

Of those with an opinion, the average score was:



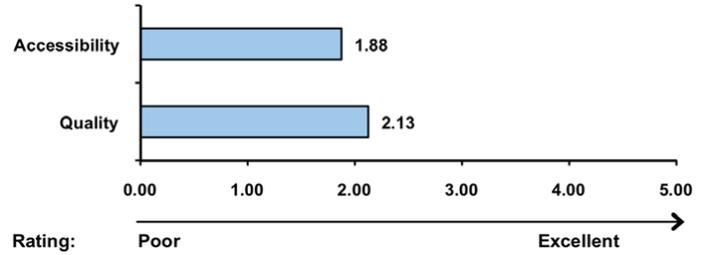
Port Saint Joe

Rating	Quality	Accessibility
Excellent	0	1
Very Good	1	0
Good	2	0
Fair	2	3
Poor	3	4
Number indicating a change in this service is needed		0

Comments from surveys:

- Too few, poor quality and too expensive
- Not enough doctors
- This is an underserved population; if you can't get into Dr. Tom Curry's practice (Internal Medicine), then we feel like we need to go to another county
- I agree – we looked in the phonebook, and there was not much to choose from; we were fired by our primary care physician, so now we drive to Bay County
- If you have a primary care physician in Bay County, then you won't likely be referred to Sacred Heart for inpatient services since your physician isn't on staff at the hospital
- My kids were able to get into Dr. Betty Curry's office (Pediatrics), but I have to go to the Health Department for primary care, and I don't always see the same physician every time, which doesn't lend well to developing a patient/physician relationship
- The Health Department now provides provider-specific scheduling, which should help address that issue in the future
- No matter which doctor you go to, you have to wait a long time to see them even when you have an appointment
- If you increase access to primary care in our community, then you will improve the healthcare delivery system overall
- I love the Gulf County Health Department
- A lot of people think the Health Department is only for indigent care, but that's not true; the Health Department receives both federal and state funding right now to provide care for patients

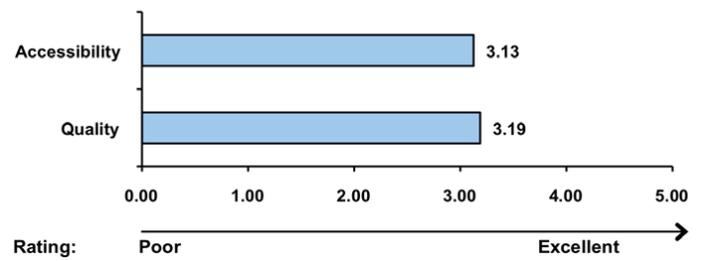
Of those with an opinion, the average score was:



Wewahitchka and Port Saint Joe Combined

Rating	Quality	Accessibility
Excellent	3	5
Very Good	5	3
Good	3	1
Fair	2	3
Poor	3	4
Number indicating a change in this service is needed		1

Of those with an opinion, the average score was:



## Preventive Services

### Description of Service

Preventive services include patient education, health screenings, immunizations, and early examination to identify risky behaviors and early disease, as well as other efforts to prevent the onset or worsening of disease or dysfunction.

### Description of Need

- Mortality from unintentional injuries is 37% higher than statewide
- Percent of youth reporting binge drinking is 35% higher than statewide
- Percent of youth reporting use of Club Drugs, Methamphetamines, Prescription Amphetamines and heroin are more than twice the statewide rate
- The percent of youth reporting use of Cocaine or Crack Cocaine is 413% the statewide rate
- 4th Quartile ranking for adult heavy or binge drinking
- From 2007 to 2010, the percent of residents  $\geq 65$  reporting excessive drinking doubled, and the rate in the 45-64 age group is 171% of the State rate
- The Gulf County rate of alcohol-related vehicle crash deaths is 447% the State rate
- More than twice as many adults report cocaine use than marijuana use
- The adult lifecycle population is higher than statewide, so
- The percent of adults age  $\geq 65$  who could not see a doctor at least once in the past year due to cost is more than double the Statewide rate
- There were 138 births in the County in 2009
- Ranks in the 3rd Quartile for the number of births to uninsured women
- Ranks in the 2nd Quartile for the number of teen births
- Ranks in the 4th Quartile for the incidence of low birth weight babies
- Ranks in the 4th Quartile for premature births
- Ranks in the 3rd Quartile for Infant mortality for the 2007-2009 period
- The rate of premature deaths from chronic lower respiratory disease is 84% higher than statewide
- Mortality from diabetes is more than twice the statewide rate
- Mortality from pneumonia/influenza is 22% higher than statewide

services need to anticipate a growing elderly population

- For the sixteen causes of death listed, the premature death rate was higher than statewide in twelve disease categories
- The incidence of asthma in those  $\geq 65$  is 73% higher than Statewide
- Those  $\geq 65$  have heart disease at a rate 53% higher than Statewide
- 55% of GCHD Survey participants stated they are not aware of resources for mental health, and 72% for substance abuse services
- Child abuse is ranked in the 3rd Quartile
- Gulf County has several Federal designations to provide access to programs that can increase provider revenue and benefits to county residents
- The population with incomes  $< 100\%$  FPL is 32% higher than Statewide
- There are at least 4,623 individuals with incomes  $< 200\%$  FPL—the level most fee discount programs begin
- 25% of Gulf County children live in poverty-35% higher than Statewide
- The percent females living in poverty is 58% higher than Statewide
- There are 3,844 people in Gulf County that have no health insurance, a rate 66% higher than Statewide
- The percent uninsured for those age 45-64, is 82% higher than
- The Gulf County percent of all adults who received a flu shot in the past year decreased 7.9%, while the State rate increased 3.8%
- The Gulf County percent of adults 65 and older who received a flu shot in the past year decreased 20.7%, while the State rate increased 0.7%
- Arthritis in the 18-44 age group is more than double the State rate
- 51% of participants in the GCHD Survey reported NOT taking prescribed medications to control chronic disease
- The rate of those  $\geq 65$  reporting good mental health dropped from 95% in 2007 to 86% in 2010
- 4th Quartile ranking for adults who are overweight
- 50% of GCHD Survey participants know about community preventive programs
- Out of 25 preventive care criteria with Quartile rankings, Gulf County ranked in the 4th Quartile in 15
- In the GCHD Survey, 48% of respondents reported not being able to afford prescribed medications
- Ranks 13th out of 67 Counties for "unsafe sex"
- The incidence of bacterial STDs for women increased 98% from 2004 to 2009
- The percent of youth who smoke is twice the state rate
- The percent of adult residents who smoke tobacco is 174% the State rate

Statewide

- 70% of respondents to the GCHD Survey stated that they do not have insurance that meets their health care needs
- In 2008, the percent of children in poverty is 135% the state rate, while the percent enrolled in Medicaid is lower than statewide
- The percent of adults age 45-64 who could not see a doctor at least once in the past year due to cost is 88% higher than statewide
- The percent of women who had a mammogram within the past two years is 84% the state rate
- Women age 45-64 who had a Pap test in the past year is 81% the state rate
- Adults who had blood stool test in the past year is 68% the state rate
- Diabetics who had self management education is 77% the state rate
- In the GCHD Survey 78% reported being unable to get dental care

Resources

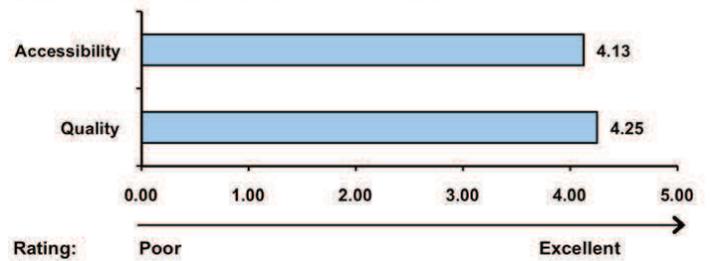
Preventive Services		
Facility	Town	Notes
Sacred Heart Hospital on the Gulf	Port Saint Joe	Multiple preventive services
Gulf County Health Department	Port Saint Joe and Wewahitchka	Multiple preventive services
Wewahitchka Medical Center FQHC	Wewahitchka	Multiple preventive services

Key Informant Interview Results

Wewahitchka

Rating	Quality	Accessibility
Excellent	3	3
Very Good	4	3
Good	1	2
Fair	0	0
Poor	0	0
Number indicating a change in this service is needed		2

Of those with an opinion, the average score was:



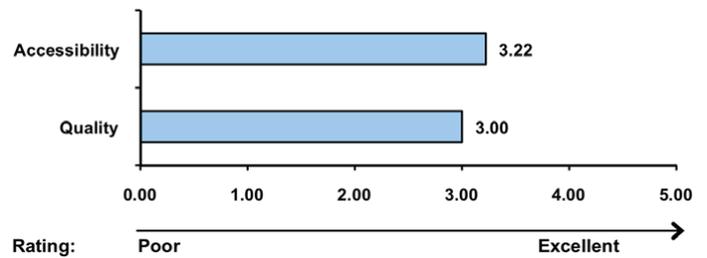
Comments from surveys:

- GCHD can help host classes for a wellness program
- GCHD offers smoking cessation
- Life Alert is used by many seniors
- Need for dedicated weight loss/nutrition program; GCHD offers some nutritional support
- Preventive health campaign running in Aug. and Sept. to promote annual check-ups; hosted by Wewahitchka Medical Center
- GCHD and Wewa Medical Center are good sources
- Senior Spirit program at Sacred Heart offers good educational programs and a coupon book for certain screenings

Port Saint Joe

Rating	Quality	Accessibility
Excellent	1	1
Very Good	2	3
Good	1	2
Fair	4	3
Poor	0	0
Number indicating a change in this service is needed		0

Of those with an opinion, the average score was:



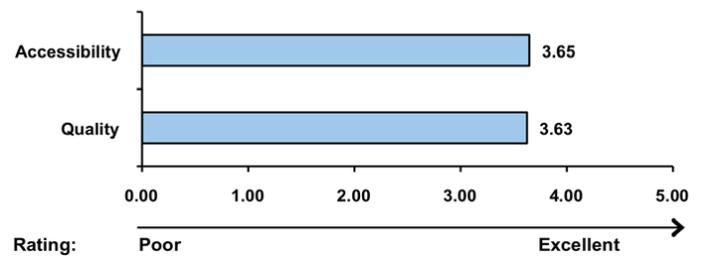
Comments from surveys:

- Health Dept. and Hospital offer screenings and education but limited follow-up
- Not enough public awareness
- Flu shots are readily available
- Sacred Heart Senior Spirit programs are educational
- The perception and communication of services available from all providers throughout the county need improvement; tie into Channel 3 (local channel) to do public service announcements, special event announcements, etc.
- I didn't know colonoscopy services were available at the hospital
- There is a great need for more diabetes education and awareness
- Some people are intimidated to come to events at the hospital, so it might be a good idea to host wellness screenings at the Senior Center, Library, WIC building, churches, tag onto other planned community events, PTA meetings, etc.
- There is a disconnect with the African American community when it comes to reaching them for special events; partner with People Helping People to help spread the word and encourage participation and screenings
- If you reach out to the children and teachers at the schools, then you will reach the families

Wewahitchka and Port Saint Joe Combined

Rating	Quality	Accessibility
Excellent	4	4
Very Good	6	6
Good	2	4
Fair	4	3
Poor	0	0
Number indicating a change in this service is		2

Of those with an opinion, the average score was:



## **Prenatal/Obstetrical Services**

### Description of Service

Prenatal care is care from the time of a pregnancy diagnosis up to delivery. Obstetrical care is the care of women during pregnancy through delivery.

### Description of Need

- Percent of youth reporting binge drinking is 35% higher than statewide
- Percent of youth reporting use of Club Drugs, Methamphetamines, Prescription Amphetamines and heroin are more than twice the statewide rate
- The percent of youth reporting use of Cocaine or Crack Cocaine is 413% the statewide rate
- More than twice as many adults report cocaine use than marijuana use
- 55% of GCHD Survey participants stated they are not aware of resources for mental health, and 72% for substance abuse services
- Child abuse is ranked in the 3rd Quartile
- Gulf County has several Federal designations to provide access to programs that can increase provider revenue and benefits to county residents
- The percent population with incomes <100% FPL is 32% higher than Statewide
- There are at least 4,623 individuals with incomes <200% FPL—the level most fee discount programs begin
- 70% of respondents to the GCHD Survey stated that they do not have insurance that meets their health care needs
- There were 138 births in the County in 2009
- Ranks in the 3rd Quartile for the number of births to uninsured women
- Ranks in the 2nd Quartile for the number of teen births
- Ranks in the 4th Quartile for the incidence of low birth weight babies
- Ranks in the 4th Quartile for premature births
- Ranks in the 3rd Quartile for Infant mortality for the 2007-2009 period
- Mortality from diabetes is more than twice the statewide rate
- 50% of GCHD Survey participants know about community preventive programs
- Out of 25 preventive care criteria with Quartile rankings, Gulf County ranked in the 4th Quartile in 15

- The percent females living in poverty is 58% higher than Statewide
- There are 3,844 people in Gulf County that have no health insurance, a rate 66% higher than Statewide
- In the GCHD Survey, 48% of respondents reported not being able to afford prescribed medications
- Ranks 13th out of 67 Counties for "unsafe sex"
- The percent of youth who smoke is twice the state rate
- The percent of adult residents who smoke tobacco is 174% the State rate

Resources

Prenatal Care					
Practice Name	Last Name	First Name	Prof	Town	Notes
Port Saint Joe Medical Clinic (Gulf County Health Department FQHC)	Breland	Henry	MD-OB	Port Saint Joe	twice per month
	Pennington	Toni	MD-OB		
Wewahitchka Medical Clinic (Gulf County Health Department FQHC)	Breland	Henry	MD-OB	Wewahitchka	twice per month
	Pennington	Toni	MD-OB		
	Cook	Helen	ARNP		
Shoreline Medical Group	Curry	Elizabeth	MD-Peds	Port Saint Joe	Sees some pregnant mothers

No obstetrical services are provided in Gulf County.

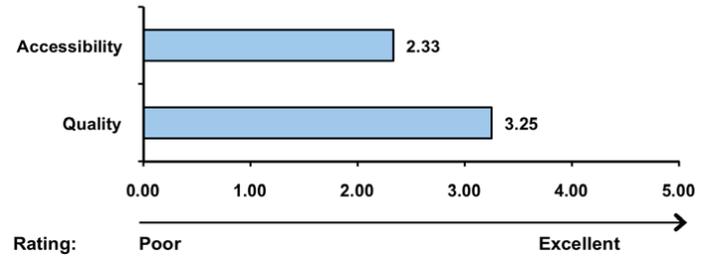
## Key Informant Interview Results

### Wewahitchka

#### Prenatal

Rating	Quality	Accessibility
Excellent	1	0
Very Good	0	0
Good	2	3
Fair	1	2
Poor	0	1
Number indicating a change in this service is needed		3

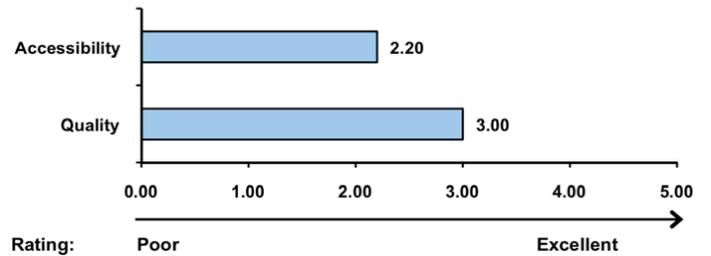
Of those with an opinion, the average score was:



#### Obstetrical

Rating	Quality	Accessibility
Excellent	1	0
Very Good	0	0
Good	1	2
Fair	2	2
Poor	0	1
Number indicating a change in this service is needed		3

Of those with an opinion, the average score was:



Comments from surveys:

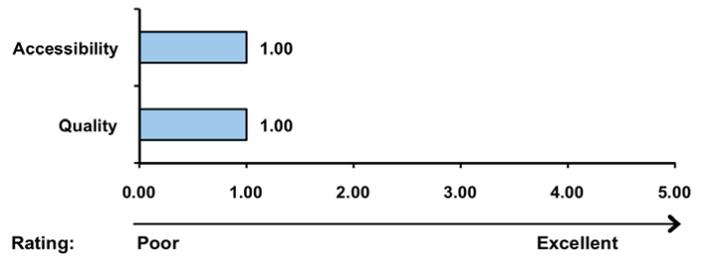
- Limited services available
- Some services offered through GCHD; doctors from Emerald Coast Ob/Gyn in Bay County see patients twice a month in Port St. Joe
- Clients go to Bay County
- Pregnant moms have to basically take off the entire day to go to Panama City for appointments
- Patients go to Bay County for OB care

Port Saint Joe

Prenatal

Rating	Quality	Accessibility
Excellent	0	0
Very Good	0	0
Good	0	0
Fair	0	0
Poor	1	2
Number indicating a change in this service is needed		1

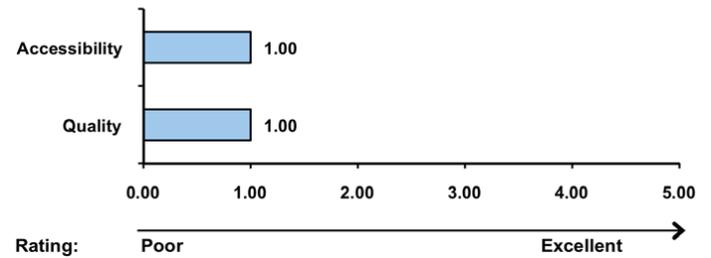
Of those with an opinion, the average score was:



Obstetrical

Rating	Quality	Accessibility
Excellent	0	0
Very Good	0	0
Good	0	0
Fair	0	0
Poor	1	2
Number indicating a change in this service is needed		1

Of those with an opinion, the average score was:



Comments from surveys:

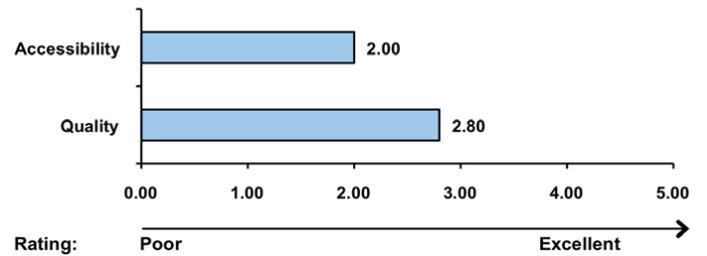
- The Gulf County Health Department has a women's clinic, and Ob/Gyn's from Bay County see patients there two days a month; the Health Dept. also offers four prenatal class series throughout the year
- 10 – 12 babies per month are delivered to Gulf County residents on average; the Health Dept. is ramping up marketing efforts to encourage people to connect with Dr. Hood, new pediatrician, to provide continuity of care close to home following delivery
- I wanted my doctor close to the hospital that I delivered at

Wewahitchka and Port Saint Joe Combined

Prenatal

Rating	Quality	Accessibility
Excellent	1	0
Very Good	0	0
Good	2	3
Fair	1	2
Poor	1	3
Number indicating a change in this service is needed		4

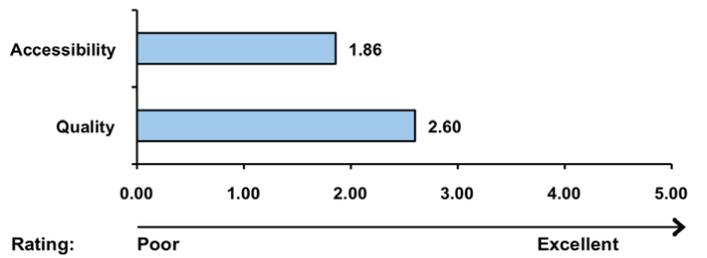
Of those with an opinion, the average score was:



Obstetrical

Rating	Quality	Accessibility
Excellent	1	0
Very Good	0	0
Good	1	2
Fair	2	2
Poor	1	3
Number indicating a change in this service is needed		4

Of those with an opinion, the average score was:



## School Health Services

### Description of Service

School health services can provide early intervention, screening, preventive services, medication management, education, and other opportunities to reach this population in a convenient setting. School health services often also help coordinate referrals for services not provided at the schools.

### Description of Need

- Percent of youth reporting binge drinking is 35% higher than statewide
- Percent of youth reporting use of Club Drugs, Methamphetamines, Prescription Amphetamines and heroin are more than twice the statewide rate
- The percent of youth reporting use of Cocaine or Crack Cocaine is 413% the statewide rate
- More than twice as many adults report cocaine use than marijuana use
- 55% of GCHD Survey participants stated they are not aware of resources for mental health, and 72% for substance abuse services
- Child abuse is ranked in the 3rd Quartile
- Gulf County has several Federal designations to provide access to programs that can increase provider revenue and benefits to county residents
- The percent population with incomes <100% FPL is 32% higher than Statewide
- There are at least 4,623 individuals with incomes <200% FPL—the level most fee discount programs begin
- There are 3,844 people in Gulf County that have no
- Ranks in the 4th Quartile for premature births
- Ranks in the 3rd Quartile for Infant mortality for the 2007-2009 period
- Mortality from diabetes is more than twice the statewide rate
- 50% of GCHD Survey participants know about community preventive programs
- Out of 25 preventive care criteria with Quartile rankings, Gulf County ranked in the 4th Quartile in 15
- In the GCHD Survey, 48% of respondents reported not being able to afford prescribed medications
- Ranks 13th out of 67 Counties for "unsafe sex"
- The percent of youth who smoke is twice the state rate
- The percent of adult residents who smoke tobacco is 174% the State rate
- Mortality from unintentional injuries is 37% higher than statewide

- health insurance, a rate 66% higher than Statewide
- 70% of respondents to the GCHD Survey stated that they do not have insurance that meets their health care needs
  - There were 138 births in the County in 2009
  - Ranks in the 3rd Quartile for the number of births to uninsured women
  - Ranks in the 2nd Quartile for the number of teen births
  - Ranks in the 4th Quartile for the incidence of low birth weight babies
  - In 2008, the percent of children in poverty is 135% the state rate, while the percent enrolled in Medicaid is lower than statewide
  - The Gulf County rate of alcohol-related vehicle crash deaths is 447% the State rate
  - The incidence of asthma in those  $\geq 65$  is 73% higher than Statewide
  - 25% of Gulf County children live in poverty-35% higher than Statewide
  - The rate of premature deaths from chronic lower respiratory disease is 84% higher than statewide
  - Mortality from pneumonia/influenza is 22% higher than statewide
  - The incidence of bacterial STDs for women increased 98% from 2004 to 2009

Resources

School Health Services			
Provider	School	Town	Notes
Gulf County Health Department	Port Saint Joe Elementary/Middle School	Port Saint Joe	Full time RN, plus Health Support Techs
	Port Saint Joe High School	Port Saint Joe	Full time RN, plus Health Support Techs
	Wewahitchka Elementary/Middle School	Wewahitchka	Full time RN, plus Health Support Techs
	Wewahitchka High School	Wewahitchka	Full time RN, plus Health Support Techs

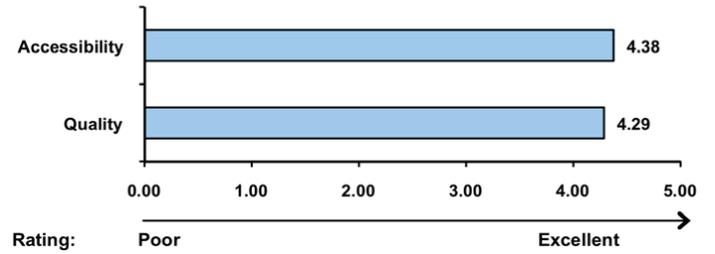
Key Informant Interview Results

<i>Wewa</i>	Quality	Accessibility
Excellent	3	4
Very Good	3	3
Good	1	1
Fair	0	0
Poor	0	0
Number indicating a change in this service is needed		0

Comments from surveys:

- GCHD is accessible to families
- Robust school health program with a nurse and a support staff at each school
- High diabetes population in schools
- North Florida Child Development is adding a nurse and a dentist one day a week in both PSJ and Wewa

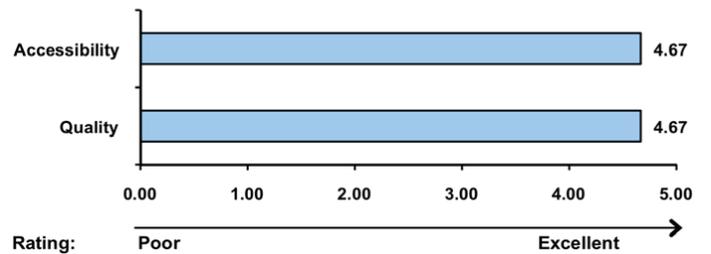
Of those with an opinion, the average score was:



Port Saint Joe

Rating	Quality	Accessibility
Excellent	2	2
Very Good	1	1
Good	0	0
Fair	0	0
Poor	0	0
Number indicating a change in this service is needed		0

Of those with an opinion, the average score was:



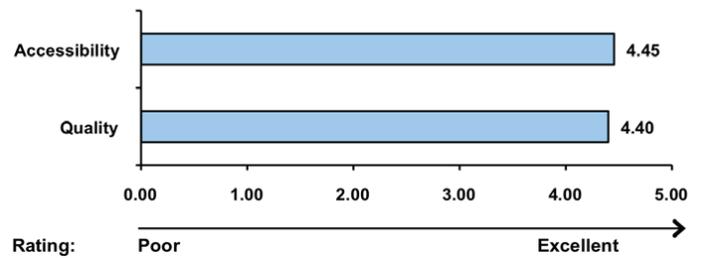
Comments from surveys:

- There will be an issue with daily medication doses if the county moves to a four-day school week next year
- The kids love the school nurses
- Gulf County is fortunate to have a RN available in Port St. Joe and Wewahitchka, in addition to having a health support tech at all schools
- My children receive excellent care, and my son finds excuses to visit the school nurse

Wewahitchka and Port Saint Joe Combined:

Rating	Quality	Accessibility
Excellent	5	6
Very Good	4	4
Good	1	1
Fair	0	0
Poor	0	0
Number indicating a change in this service is needed		0

Of those with an opinion, the average score was:



## **Mental Health Services**

### Description of Service

Mental health care covers a broad array of services, including preventive services (such as developmental and mental health screenings), crisis intervention, case management, psychotherapy and counseling, medication management, psychiatric rehabilitation, and support services.

### Description of Need

- Percent of youth reporting binge drinking is 35% higher than statewide
- Percent of youth reporting use of Club Drugs, Methamphetamines, Prescription Amphetamines and heroin are more than twice the statewide rate
- The percent of youth reporting use of Cocaine or Crack Cocaine is 413% the statewide rate
- More than twice as many adults report cocaine use than marijuana use
- Child abuse is ranked in the 3rd Quartile
- Gulf County has several Federal designations to provide access to programs that can increase provider revenue and benefits to county residents
- The percent population with incomes <100% FPL is 32% higher than Statewide
- There are at least 4,623 individuals with incomes <200% FPL—the level most fee discount programs begin
- There are 3,844 people in Gulf County that have no health insurance, a rate 66% higher than Statewide
- 70% of respondents to the GCHD Survey stated
- Ranks 13th out of 67 Counties for "unsafe sex"
- The percent of youth who smoke is twice the state rate
- The percent of adult residents who smoke tobacco is 174% the State rate
- Mortality from unintentional injuries is 37% higher than statewide
- The Gulf County rate of alcohol-related vehicle crash deaths is 447% the State rate
- The incidence of asthma in those ≥65 is 73% higher than Statewide
- 25% of Gulf County children live in poverty-35% higher than Statewide
- In 2008, the percent of children in poverty is 135% the state rate, while the percent enrolled in Medicaid is lower than statewide
- The rate of premature deaths from chronic lower respiratory disease is 84% higher than statewide

that they do not have insurance that meets their health care needs

- Ranks in the 2nd Quartile for the number of teen births
- Ranks in the 3rd Quartile for Infant mortality for the 2007-2009 period
- Mortality from diabetes is more than twice the statewide rate
- 50% of GCHD Survey participants know about preventive programs
- Out of 25 preventive care criteria with Quartile rankings, Gulf County ranked in the 4th Quartile in 15
- In the GCHD Survey, 48% of respondents reported not being able to afford prescribed medications

- The percent females living in poverty is 58% higher than Statewide
- 4th Quartile ranking for adult heavy or binge drinking
- From 2007 to 2010, the percent of residents ≥65 reporting excessive drinking doubled, and the rate in the 45-64 age group is 171% of the State rate
- For the sixteen causes of death listed, the premature death rate was higher than statewide in twelve disease categories
- Those ≥65 have heart disease at a rate 53% higher than Statewide
- The percent uninsured for those age 45-64, is 82% higher than Statewide
- Arthritis in the 18-44 age group is more than double the State rate
- The rate of those ≥65 reporting good mental health dropped from 95% in 2007 to 86% in 2010
- 4th Quartile ranking for adults who are overweight

## Resources

Mental Health Services					
Practice Name	Last Name	First Name	Prof	Town	Notes
Port Saint Joe Medical Clinic (Gulf County Health Department FQHC)	Nance	Jill	LCSW	Port Saint Joe	
Wewahitchka Medical Clinic (Gulf County Health Department FQHC)	Nance	Jill	LCSW	Wewahitchka	
Sacred Heart Hospital on the Gulf	Ray	Samatha	MSW	Port Saint Joe	
	Howard	Omar	MD-Psych		
	Gibson	Nancy	ARNP-Psych		

Life Management Center of Northwest Florida	Jones	Cheryl	Licensed MH Counselor	Port Saint Joe	
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## Key Informant Interview Results

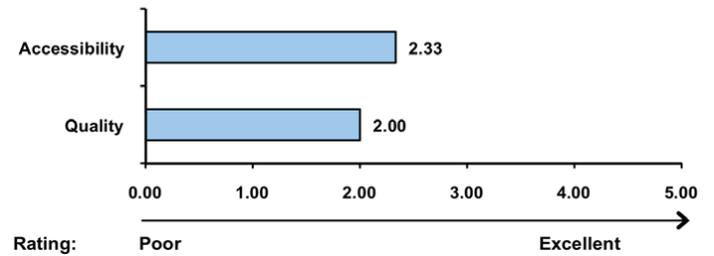
### Wewahitchka

Rating	Quality	Accessibility
Excellent	0	1
Very Good	1	1
Good	1	0
Fair	1	1
Poor	3	3
Number indicating a change in this service is needed		3

#### Comments from surveys:

- Very limited
- Need more in Gulf County
- Jill Nance – LCSW with the GCHD – offers counseling and some medication management services
- Life Management in Port St. Joe or Panama City

Of those with an opinion, the average score was:



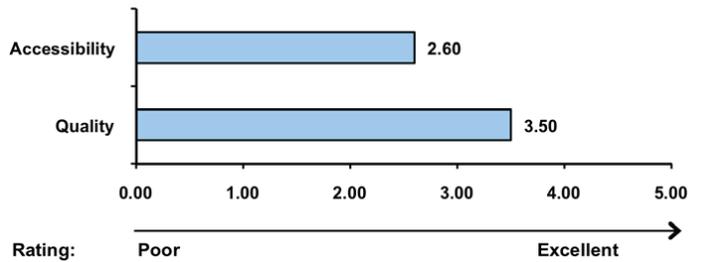
Port Saint Joe

Rating	Quality	Accessibility
Excellent	1	0
Very Good	2	2
Good	0	1
Fair	0	0
Poor	1	2
Number indicating a change in this service is needed		0

Comments from surveys:

- The nursing home offers some inpatient mental health services
- The Health Dept. provides some mental health services as well, including having a licensed clinical social worker available to meet with patients
- Life Management Center in Gulf County sees patients on an outpatient basis
- Good access in Port St. Joe but limited or inconvenient out of the city

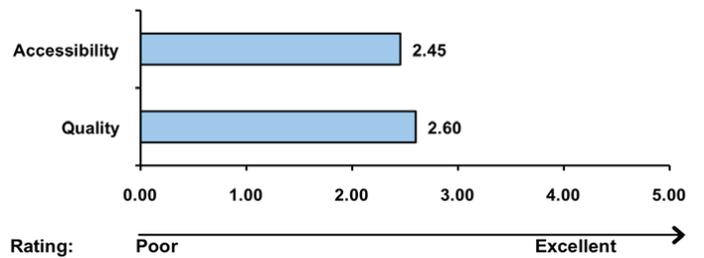
Of those with an opinion, the average score was:



Wewahitchka and Port Saint Joe Combined:

Rating	Quality	Accessibility
Excellent	1	1
Very Good	3	3
Good	1	1
Fair	1	1
Poor	4	5
Number indicating a change in this service is needed		3

Of those with an opinion, the average score was:



## Pharmacy Services

### Description of Service

The dispensing of prescription medications

### Description of Need

- Gulf County has several Federal designations to provide access to programs that can increase provider revenue and benefits to county residents
- The percent population with incomes <100% FPL is 32% higher than Statewide
- There are at least 4,623 individuals with incomes <200% FPL—the level most fee discount programs begin
- There are 3,844 people in Gulf County that have no health insurance, a rate 66% higher than Statewide
- 70% of respondents to the GCHD Survey stated that they do not have insurance that meets their health care needs
- Ranks in the 2nd Quartile for the number of teen births
- Mortality from diabetes is more than twice the statewide rate
- In the GCHD Survey, 48% of respondents reported not being able to afford prescribed medications
- Ranks 13th out of 67 Counties for "unsafe sex"
- The incidence of asthma in those ≥65 is 73% higher than Statewide
- 25% of Gulf County children live in poverty-35% higher
- In 2008, the percent of children in poverty is 135% the state rate, while the percent enrolled in Medicaid is lower than statewide
- The rate of premature deaths from chronic lower respiratory disease is 84% higher than statewide
- The percent females living in poverty is 58% higher than Statewide
- For the sixteen causes of death listed, the premature death rate was higher than statewide in twelve disease categories
- Those ≥65 have heart disease at a rate 53% higher than Statewide
- The percent uninsured for those age 45-64, is 82% higher than Statewide
- Arthritis in the 18-44 age group is more than double the State rate
- The rate of those ≥65 reporting good mental health dropped from 95% in 2007 to 86% in 2010
- There were 138 births in the County in 2009
- Ranks in the 3rd Quartile for the number of births to uninsured women

than Statewide

- The adult lifecycle population is higher than statewide, so services need to anticipate a growing elderly population
- The percent of adults age 45-64 who could not see a doctor at least once in the past year due to cost is 88% higher than statewide

Resources

Pharmacy	
Facility	Town
CVS Pharmacy	Port Saint Joe
Buy Rite Drugs	Wewahitchka
Buy Rite Drugs	Port Saint Joe

Key Informant Interview Results

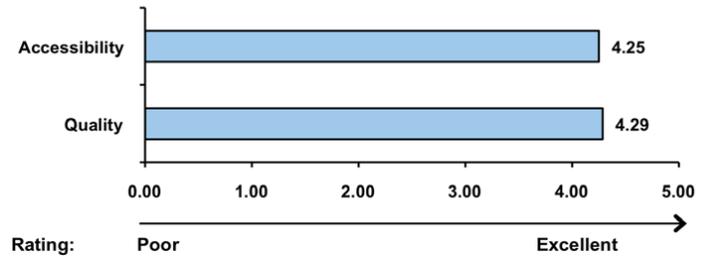
Wewahitchka

Rating	Quality	Accessibility
Excellent	3	4
Very Good	3	2
Good	1	2
Fair	0	0
Poor	0	0
Number indicating a change in this service is needed		0

Comments from surveys:

- One drug store in Wewa – limited hours but great service
- Good service
- A lot of patients still want their prescriptions sent to Wal-Mart or Publix (both out of county) to take advantage of cheaper options

Of those with an opinion, the average score was:



Port Saint Joe

Rating	Quality	Accessibility
Excellent	2	1
Very Good	2	1
Good	3	3
Fair	1	3
Poor	0	1
Number indicating a change in this service is needed		0

Comments from surveys:

- New CVS to be open 7 days a week; one additional pharmacy available in town
- Prescription assistance is minimally available, but the Presbyterian Church offers help when possible
- Patient friendly information about prescription drugs and discounts is available online
- The Health Dept. has a Prescription Assistance Program for its registered patients; good assistance program
- There are very few resources available for insulin support or assistance

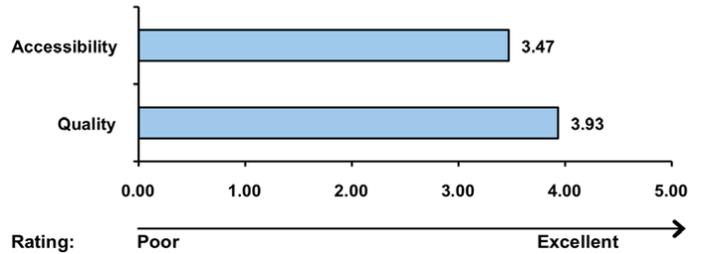
Of those with an opinion, the average score was:



Wewahitchka and Port Saint Joe Combined

Rating	Quality	Accessibility
Excellent	5	5
Very Good	5	3
Good	4	5
Fair	1	3
Poor	0	1
Number indicating a change in this service is needed		0

Of those with an opinion, the average score was:



## Dental Care

### Description of Service

Dental services include diagnosis of diseases of the teeth and gums, prevention of those conditions, and restorative treatment of disorders.

### Description of Need

- Gulf County has several Federal designations to provide access to programs that can increase provider revenue and benefits to county residents
- Population with incomes <100% FPL is 32% higher than Statewide
- There are at least 4,623 individuals with incomes <200% FPL—the level most fee discount programs begin
- There are 3,844 people in Gulf County that have no health insurance, a rate 66% higher than Statewide
- 70% of respondents to the GCHD Survey stated that they do not have insurance that meets their health care needs
- Mortality from diabetes is more than twice the statewide rate
- 25% of Gulf County children live in poverty-35% higher than Statewide
- In 2008, the percent of children in poverty is 135% the state rate, while the percent enrolled in Medicaid is lower than statewide
- The percent females living in poverty is 58% higher than Statewide
- The percent uninsured for those age 45-64, is 82% higher than Statewide
- The percent of youth who smoke is twice the state rate
- The percent of adult residents who smoke tobacco is 174% the State rate
- In the GCHD Survey 78% reported being unable to get dental care

Resources

Dental Care				
Practice Name	Last Name	First Name	Prof	Town
Gulf County Health Department Dental Clinic	Graham	Kerri-Ann	DMD	Port Saint Joe
	Grinslade	Beverly	Dent Hygienist	
Gulf County Health Department Dental Clinic	Henson	Kristanya	DDS	Wewahitchka
	Fults	Patricia	Dent Hygienist	
Advanced & Gentle Dental Care	Lister	David	Dentist	Wewahitchka
	O'Bryan	Sandra	Dent Hygienist	
Individuals:	May	Frank	Dentist	Port Saint Joe
	Wright	Linda	Dent Hygienist	In Dr May's practice
	Bush	Anealia	Dent Hygienist	In Dr May's practice

Key Informant Interview Results

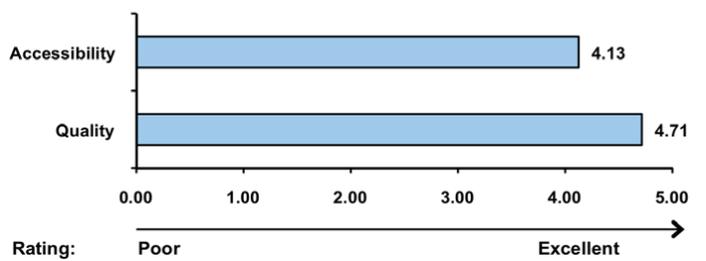
Wewahitchka

Rating	Quality	Accessibility
Excellent	5	4
Very Good	2	2
Good	0	1
Fair	0	1
Poor	0	0
Number indicating a change in this service is needed		0

Comments from surveys:

- GCHD is great, but it takes time to get an appt
- GCHD serves other counties (25% patients from other counties)
- Very good
- Limited service when extensive work is needed, especially with Medicaid patients
- High occurrence of tooth decay in young children; more education needed

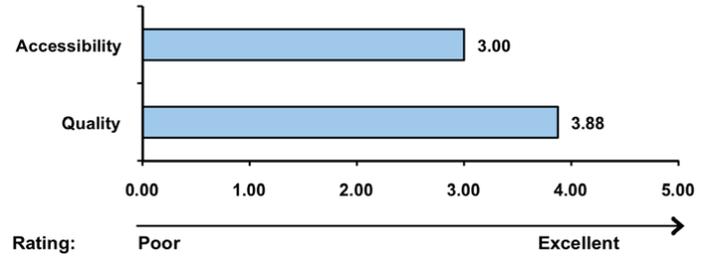
Of those with an opinion, the average score was:



Port Saint Joe

Rating	Quality	Accessibility
Excellent	4	0
Very Good	1	3
Good	1	3
Fair	2	1
Poor	0	1
Number indicating a change in this service is needed		1

Of those with an opinion, the average score was:



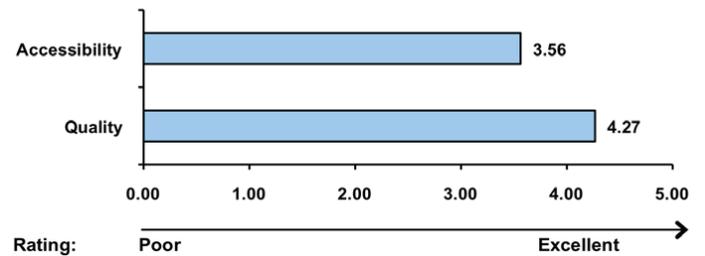
Comments from surveys:

- Dr. Graham at the Health Dept. is one of the best dentists, but her practice is swamped
- The Health Dept. is currently modifying the dental schedule to ensure that 75% of the appointments are reserved for Gulf County residents
- Health Dept. has superior service but sometimes long wait

Wewahitchka and Port Saint Joe Combined

Rating	Quality	Accessibility
Excellent	9	4
Very Good	3	5
Good	1	4
Fair	2	2
Poor	0	1
Number indicating a change in this service is needed		1

Of those with an opinion, the average score was:



## Hospice

### Description of Service

The concept of hospice includes palliative care for the incurably ill given in such institutions as hospitals or nursing homes, but also care provided to those who would rather die in their own homes. Hospice care emphasizes relieving pain and uncomfortable symptoms of persons with terminal illness and providing emotional and spiritual support to both the terminally ill and their family members.

### Description of Need

- For the period 2001-2005, 33% of Gulf County residents appropriate for hospice service actually used those services, compared to 44% Statewide.
- In 2008, there were a total of 172 deaths in Gulf County. Of those, the following number of deaths were used in the Florida Agency for Health Care Administration projections for the need for hospice care:
- 14 cancer deaths under age 65
- 31 cancer deaths over age 65
- 28 non cancer deaths under age 65
- 99 non cancer deaths over age 65
- 28% of GCHD Survey participants stated they know how to access hospice care

### Resources

Hospice		
Facility	Town	Notes
Covenant Hospice	Pensacola	Provides services in Gulf County
Emerald Coast Hospice	Panama City	Provides services in Gulf County

## Key Informant Interview Results

### Wewahitchka

Rating	Quality	Accessibility
Excellent	3	3
Very Good	3	3
Good	1	1
Fair	0	0
Poor	0	0
Number indicating a change in this service is needed		0

Comments from surveys:

- Bay County providers
- Hospice organizations do a great job

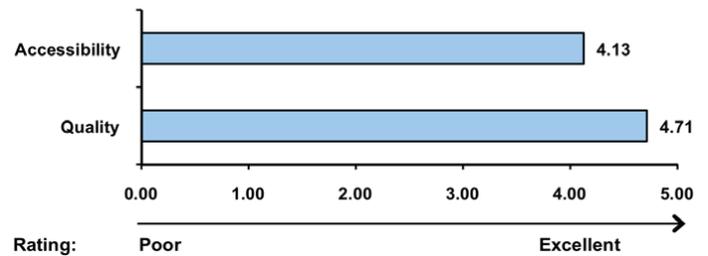
### Port Saint Joe

Rating	Quality	Accessibility
Excellent	3	1
Very Good	2	3
Good	0	1
Fair	0	0
Poor	0	0
Number indicating a change in this service is needed		0

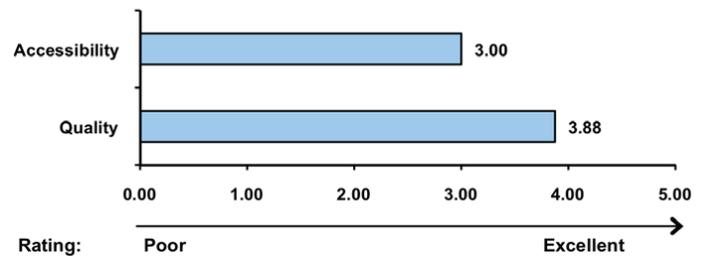
Comments from surveys:

- There are two hospice organizations that call on Gulf County; Covenant Hospice has a significant presence
- Excellent care
- Need for grievance support groups

Of those with an opinion, the average score was:



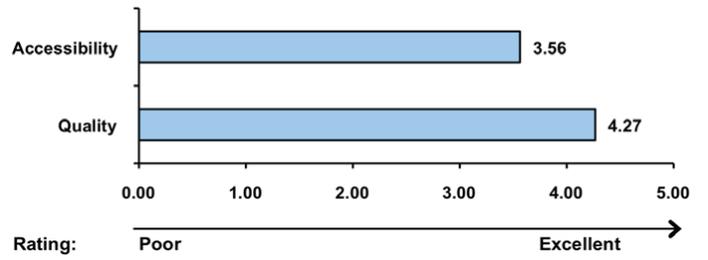
Of those with an opinion, the average score was:



Wewahitchka and Port Saint Joe Combined

Rating	Quality	Accessibility
Excellent	6	4
Very Good	5	6
Good	1	2
Fair	0	0
Poor	0	0
Number indicating a change in this service is needed		0

Of those with an opinion, the average score was:



## Public Health

### Description of Services

Public health services are those that:

- Prevent epidemics and the spread of disease
- Protect against environmental hazards
- Prevent injuries
- Promote and encourage health behaviors
- Respond to disasters and assist communities in recovery
- Assure the quality and accessibility of health services
- Provide personal (medical/clinical) health care services to treat specific illnesses

### Description of Need

- Mortality from diabetes is more than twice the statewide rate
- Premature deaths from respiratory disease is 84% higher than statewide
- For the sixteen causes of death listed, the premature death rate was higher than statewide in twelve disease categories
- Those ≥65 have heart disease at a rate 53% higher than Statewide
- The adult lifecycle population is higher than statewide, so services need to anticipate a growing elderly population
- 4th Quartile ranking for adult heavy or binge drinking
- 55% of GCHD Survey participants stated they are not aware of resources for mental health, and 72% for
- ≥65 reporting good mental health dropped from 95% in 2007 to 86% in 2010
- There were 138 births in the County in 2009
- Ranks in the 3rd Quartile for the number of births to uninsured women
- The percent of adults age 45-64 who could not see a doctor at least once in the past year due to cost is 88% higher than statewide
- Percent of youth reporting binge drinking is 35% higher than statewide
- Percent of youth reporting use of Club Drugs, Methamphetamines, Prescription Amphetamines and heroin are more than twice the statewide rate
- Youth reporting use of Cocaine or Crack Cocaine is 413% the

substance abuse services

- Mortality from pneumonia/influenza is 22% higher than statewide
- 51% of participants in the GCHD Survey reported NOT taking prescribed medications to control chronic disease
- Gulf County has several Federal designations to provide access to programs that can increase provider revenue and benefits to county residents
- Population with incomes <100% FPL is 32% higher than Statewide
- There are at least 4,623 individuals with incomes <200% FPL—the level most fee discount programs begin
- There are 3,844 people in Gulf County that have no health insurance, a rate 66% higher than Statewide
- 70% of respondents to the GCHD Survey stated that they do not have insurance that meets their health care needs
- 25% of Gulf County children live in poverty-35% higher than Statewide
- In 2008, the percent of children in poverty is 135% the state rate, while the percent enrolled in Medicaid is lower than statewide
- The percent females living in poverty is 58% higher than Statewide
- The percent uninsured for those age 45-64, is 82% higher than Statewide
- The percent of youth who smoke is twice the state rate

statewide rate

- More than twice as many adults report cocaine use than marijuana use
- Child abuse is ranked in the 3rd Quartile
- Ranks in the 3rd Quartile for Infant mortality for the 2007-2009 period
- 50% of GCHD Survey participants know about preventive programs
- Out of 25 preventive care criteria with Quartile rankings, Gulf County ranked in the 4th Quartile in 15
- Mortality from unintentional injuries is 37% higher than statewide
- The of alcohol-related vehicle crash deaths is 447% the State rate
- From 2007 to 2010, the percent of residents ≥65 reporting excessive drinking doubled, and the rate in the 45-64 age group is 171% of the State rate
- 4th Quartile ranking for adults who are overweight
- Ranks in the 4th Quartile for the incidence of low birth weight babies
- Ranks in the 4th Quartile for premature births
- The incidence of bacterial STDs for women increased 98% from 2004 to 2009
- The percent of adults age ≥65 who could not see a doctor at least once in the past year due to cost is more than double the Statewide rate
- he Gulf County percent of all adults who received a flu

- The percent of adult residents who smoke tobacco is 174% the State rate
- In the GCHD Survey 78% reported being unable to get dental care
- Ranks in the 2nd Quartile for the number of teen births
- In the GCHD Survey, 48% of respondents reported not being able to afford prescribed medications
- Ranks 13th out of 67 Counties for "unsafe sex"
- The incidence of asthma in those ≥65 is 73% higher than Statewide
- Arthritis in the 18-44 age group is more than double the State rate
- shot in the past year decreased 7.9%, while the State rate increased 3.8%
- The Gulf County percent of adults 65 and older who received a flu shot in the past year decreased 20.7%, while the State rate increased 0.7%
- Women who had a mammogram in the past two years is 84% the state rate
- Women age 45-64 who had a Pap test in the past year is 81% the state rate
- Adults who had blood stool test in the past year is 68% the state rate
- Diabetics who had self management education is 77% the state rate
- 28% of GCHD Survey participants know how to access hospice care

Resources

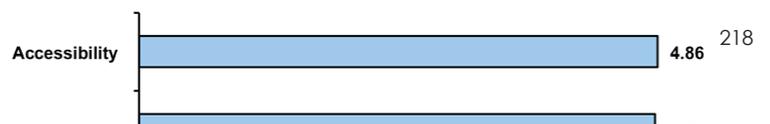
Public Health		
Organization	Town	Notes
Gulf County Health Department	Port Saint Joe and Wewahitchka	

Key Informant Interview Results

Wewahitchka

Rating	Quality	Accessibility
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Of those with an opinion, the average score was:



Excellent	5	6
Very Good	1	1
Good	0	0
Fair	0	0
Poor	0	0
Number indicating a change in this service is needed		0

Comments from surveys:

- GCHD is good for general care services
- GCHD is great help in emergency situations, especially when special needs shelter is activated

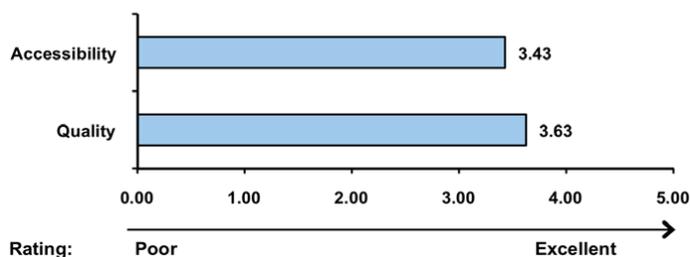
#### Port Saint Joe

Rating	Quality	Accessibility
Excellent	1	0
Very Good	3	3
Good	4	4
Fair	0	0
Poor	0	0
Number indicating a change in this service is needed		0

Comments from surveys:

- There is some confusion over what the Health Dept. provides versus what the city, county and state provide – more communication necessary
- There are many collaborative efforts; for example, the city monitors the water quality and lets the Health Dept. know when they need to inform the public of any concerns or boil water notices
- The lack of warning about controlled burns is a concern for COPD and asthma patients

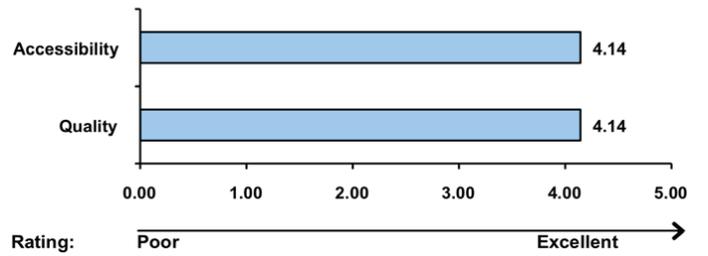
Of those with an opinion, the average score was:



Wewahitchka and Port Saint Joe Combined

Rating	Quality	Accessibility
Excellent	6	6
Very Good	4	4
Good	4	4
Fair	0	0
Poor	0	0
Number indicating a change in this service is needed		0

Of those with an opinion, the average score was:



## Domestic Violence

### Description of Service

Domestic violence services include crisis intervention, victim and family support in the underlying causes of violence, advocacy, and coordination with agencies that come into contact with victims or families, and efforts to prevent violence. Services may include short-term residential facilities.

### Description of Need

- 4th Quartile ranking for adult heavy or binge drinking
- 55% of GCHD Survey participants stated they are not aware of resources for mental health, and 72% for substance abuse services
- Gulf County has several Federal designations to provide access to programs that can increase provider revenue and benefits to county residents
- Percent of youth reporting binge drinking is 35% higher than statewide
- Percent of youth reporting use of Club Drugs, Methamphetamines, Prescription Amphetamines and heroin are more than twice the statewide rate
- The percent of youth reporting use of Cocaine or Crack Cocaine is 413% the statewide rate
- More than twice as many adults report cocaine use than marijuana use
- Child abuse is ranked in the 3rd Quartile
- From 2007 to 2010, the percent of residents ≥65 reporting excessive drinking doubled, and the rate in the 45-64 age group is 171% of the State rate

### Resources

Domestic Violence					
Organization	Last Name	First Name	Prof	Town	Notes
Port Saint Joe Medical Clinic (Gulf County Health Department FQHC)	Nance	Jill	LCSW	Port Saint Joe	Counseling and support
Wewahitchka Medical Clinic (Gulf County Health Department FQHC)	Nance	Jill	LCSW	Wewahitchka	
Sacred Heart Hospital on the Gulf	Ray	Samatha	MSW	Port Saint Joe	
Life Management Center of Northwest Florida	Howard	Omar	MD-Psych	Port Saint Joe	
	Gibson	Nancy	ARNP-Psych		
	Jones	Cheryl	Licensed MH Counselor		
Salvation Army	Martin	Pam		Port Saint Joe	

## Key Informant Interview Results

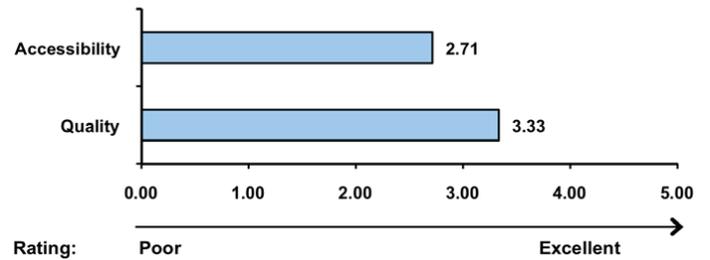
### Wewahitchka

Rating	Quality	Accessibility
Excellent	2	1
Very Good	0	0
Good	3	3
Fair	0	2
Poor	1	1
Number indicating a change in this service is needed		0

#### Comments from surveys:

- Domestic Violence Task Force??
- Domestic violence program needs more assistance – early stages of development
- Volunteers go through training for counseling certification

Of those with an opinion, the average score was:



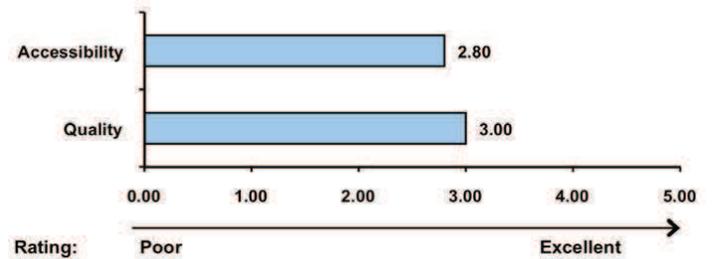
### Port Saint Joe

Rating	Quality	Accessibility
Excellent	1	0
Very Good	0	3
Good	1	0
Fair	0	0
Poor	1	2
Number indicating a change in this service is needed		0

#### Comments from surveys:

- Huge issue; a new task force recently formed
- The Salvation Army provides a full-time domestic violence counselor at the county courthouse
- Underserved population

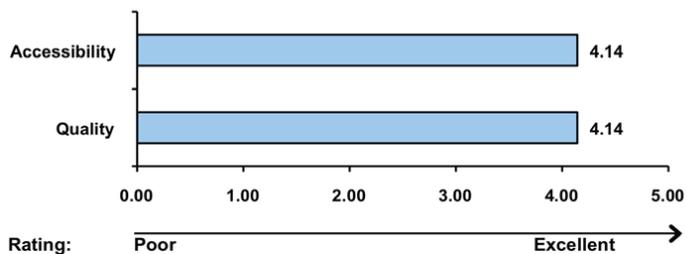
Of those with an opinion, the average score was:



Wewahitchka and Port Saint Joe Combined

Rating	Quality	Accessibility
Excellent	3	1
Very Good	0	3
Good	4	3
Fair	0	2
Poor	2	3
Number indicating a change in this service is needed		0

Of those with an opinion, the average score was:



## Respiratory Therapy Services

### Description of Service

Exercises and treatments designed to help patients maintain and recover lung function, such as with cystic fibrosis and after surgery.

### Description of Need

- The rate of premature deaths from chronic lower respiratory disease is 84% higher than statewide
- The adult lifecycle population is higher than statewide, so services need to anticipate a growing elderly population
- Mortality from pneumonia/influenza is 22% higher than statewide
- The percent of youth who smoke is twice the state rate
- The percent of adult residents who smoke tobacco is 174% the State rate
- The incidence of asthma in those  $\geq 65$  is 73% higher than Statewide

### Resources

Respiratory Therapy Services				
Organization	Last Name	First Name	Prof	Town
Sacred Heart Hospital on the Gulf	Simmons	Michael	RPT	Port Saint Joe
	Ward	Jessica	RPT	
	Nelson	Deatrice	RPT	
	Pitts	Nancy	RPT	
	Godber	Christopher	RPT	
	Lefilis	Richard	RPT	
	Mazur	David	RPT	
	Reisinger	Karen	OT	
	Buzzett	JoAnne	ST	

## Key Informant Interview Results

### Wewahitchka

Rating	Quality	Accessibility
Excellent	0	0
Very Good	1	0
Good	1	1
Fair	1	1
Poor	0	0
Number indicating a change in this service is needed		0

Comments from surveys:

- Not available in Gulf County – definitely a need
- Other county providers

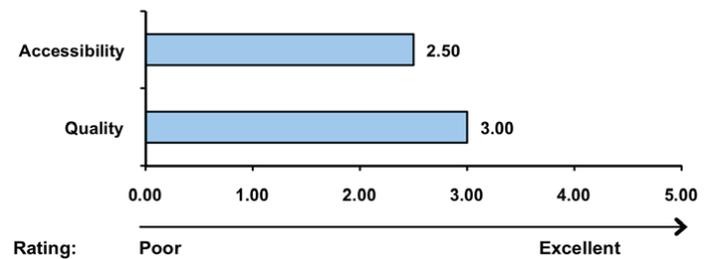
### Port Saint Joe

Rating	Quality	Accessibility
Excellent	2	0
Very Good	0	2
Good	1	1
Fair	0	0
Poor	0	0
Number indicating a change in this service is needed		0

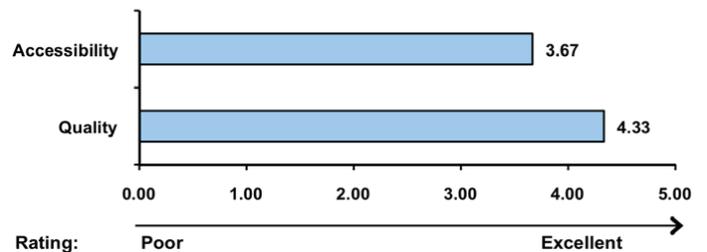
Comments from surveys:

- Great need for outpatient respiratory therapy services with the high number of COPD and asthma patients in the county
- Home health care services provide respiratory therapy services
- Patients with special needs need to be on the special needs list at the Emergency Management Center in case of a hurricane, evacuation, etc.
- Excellent pulmonologist available through home health

Of those with an opinion, the average score was:



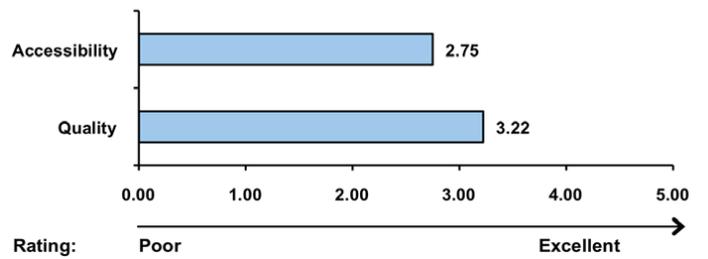
Of those with an opinion, the average score was:



Wewahitchka and Port Saint Joe Combined

Rating	Quality	Accessibility
Excellent	2	0
Very Good	1	2
Good	2	2
Fair	1	1
Poor	0	0
Number indicating a change in this service is needed		0

Of those with an opinion, the average score was:



## Physical Therapy Services

### Description of Service

Physical therapy is the provision of assistance to patients who are disabled by illness or accident or who were born with a disability, through the planning and implementation of programs to help these people gain strength, flexibility, endurance, coordination, and overall physical functioning. Physical therapy also provides treatment to lessen pain from injury and illness through movement exercises, heat, cold, electrical stimulation, water treatments, and assisting devices.

### Description of Need

- The rate of premature deaths from chronic lower respiratory disease is 84% higher than statewide
- The adult lifecycle population is higher than statewide, so services need to anticipate a growing elderly population
- Mortality from pneumonia/influenza is 22% higher than statewide
- Mortality from diabetes is more than twice the statewide rate
- Those ≥65 have heart disease at a rate 53% higher than Statewide
- Arthritis in the 18-44 age group is more than double the State rate
- 4th Quartile ranking for adults who are overweight

### Resources

Physical Therapy Services					
Organization	Last Name	First Name	Prof	Town	Notes
Sacred Heart Hospital on the Gulf	Whitfield	David	PT	Port Saint Joe	
	Santiesteban	Aurelio	PT		
	Thomas	Kimberly	PT		
	Buzzett	JoAnne	ST		
Bridge Nursing Home	Webb	Jennifer	PT	Port Saint Joe	Provides some outpatient PT
	Reisinger	Karen	OT		
	Buzzett	JoAnne	ST		

Key Informant Interview Results

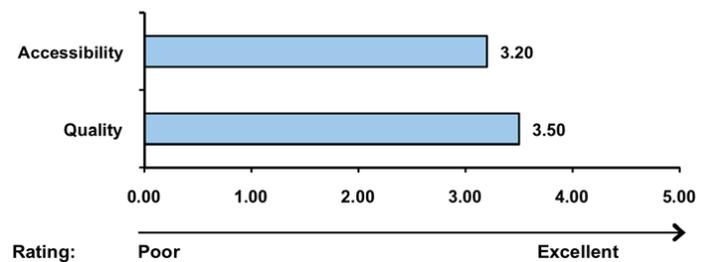
Wewahitchka

Rating	Quality	Accessibility
Excellent	1	1
Very Good	1	1
Good	1	1
Fair	1	2
Poor	0	0
Number indicating a change in this service is needed		0

Comments from surveys:

- Home Health offers services
- Wonderful physical therapy at Sacred Heart
- Not available/limited in north end of county – huge need

Of those with an opinion, the average score was:



Port Saint Joe

Rating	Quality	Accessibility
Excellent	3	1
Very Good	2	2
Good	1	1
Fair	0	2
Poor	0	0
Number indicating a change in this service is needed		0

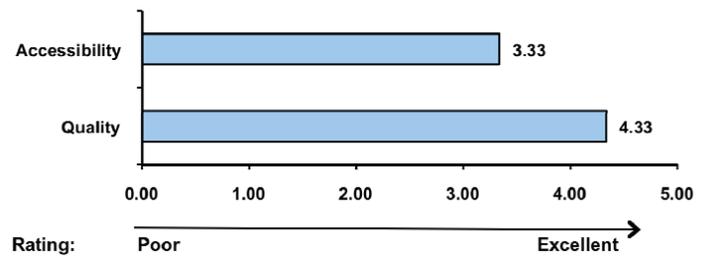
Comments from surveys:

- Limited options unless you have a local doctor; doctors in Panama City encourage you to use physical therapy services over there
- I have been allowed in-home rehab until I could go to Sacred Heart, which was very accessible, but I didn't always have a consistent therapist
- The physical therapy department at Sacred Heart is excellent, but I just don't know how accessible it is if you don't have good health insurance or are underinsured – I'm not poor enough for Medicaid and I'm too young for Medicare
- The addition of swing beds at Sacred Heart will be a great addition to provide longer term care for orthopedic patients

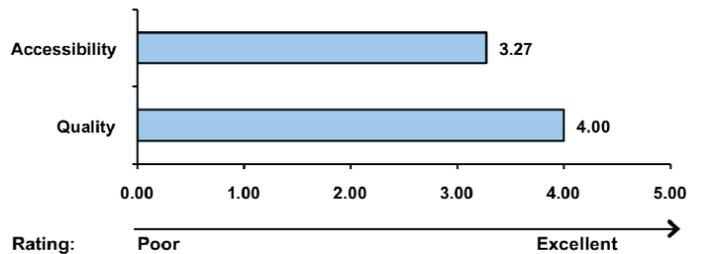
Wewahitchka and Port Saint Joe Combined

Rating	Quality	Accessibility
Excellent	4	2
Very Good	3	3
Good	2	2
Fair	1	4
Poor	0	0
Number indicating a change in this service is needed		0

Of those with an opinion, the average score was:



Of those with an opinion, the average score was:





# Strategic Priorities & Goals

As part of the Gulf County Community Health Improvement Project, the “Mobilizing for Action through Planning and Partnerships” (MAPP) a Strategic Priorities and Goals workshop was conducted on July 31, 2012. Twenty-seven community health partners participated in the workshop and identified four community health themes for Gulf County.



## BACKGROUND



As part of the “Mobilizing for Action through Planning and Partnerships” (MAPP) project in Gulf County, Quad R, LLC was contracted by the Gulf County Health Department to facilitate the Strategic Priorities & Goals workshop on July 31, 2012.

The purpose of this workshop was to identify health priorities which are impacting Gulf County residents and to develop goal statements and strategies for each priority.

A total of 27 individuals attended. Individuals were representative of various social service agencies, not-for-profit organizations, and other public health system agencies. Participants represented a cross-section of the community and input provided was based on their knowledge, awareness and perceptions of related health concerns with Gulf County.

## METHODS



Three weeks prior to the scheduled Strategic Priorities & Goals workshop, community health partners were contacted by e-mail from the Gulf County Health Department regarding the date, time, and purpose of the workshop. One week prior to the workshop, community health partners were provided the agenda.

The participants were welcomed to the workshop by the Gulf County Health Department Health Education Program Manager, Ms. Sarah Hinds. Participants introduced themselves. After reviewing the agenda, the workshop facilitator then asked participants to examine the *Gulf County 2011 Assessment of Health Care Services – Key Points* which was provided at the beginning of the session. In addition, key facts from the U.S. 2010 Census about the demographics and social characteristics of Gulf County were displayed.

Participants reviewed the data individually and identified key health issues and/or needs for Gulf County residents. Individual health concerns were written on sticky notes by each participant. Workshop participants were reminded to identify local, state and national forces that may affect the context in which the community and its public health system operate within Gulf County.

Participants were then divided randomly into four groups, and asked to combine their health issues and/or concerns (sticky notes) into common themes or categories. Each workgroup worked collaboratively to group their issues and identify a label for the theme or category.

Large sheets were posted around the room and the participants were re-assigned to one of five breakout groups. One group reviewed all the themes and categories and re-assembled them into a master list of

community health issues. Two groups worked independently to create a list of the *Resources* available in Gulf County to address community health issues and concerns. Two groups separately identified the *Barriers/Challenges* to impacting community health issues and concerns in Gulf County. Appendix 3 contains the list of *Resources* and *Barriers/Challenges*.



The two lists for the *Resources* and *Barriers/Challenges* were combined. The five breakout groups individually reviewed the *Priority Health Issues*, *Resources*, and *Barriers/Challenges* revised as needed. Each group worked to ensure the *Priority Health Issues* were distinct categories. Five health issues were identified:

- Economic and Community Well – Being Go Together
- Increased Awareness of community health and social services resources available in Gulf County.
- Increase access to care
- Mental Health
- Substance Abuse

The issues of Mental Health and Substance Abuse were combined into one Priority Issue of *Social/Mental Health*. Workshop participants were self-selected into one of the four health issues. The facilitator reviewed the key terms associated with goals and strategies on the back of the agenda with the participants.

Each workgroup was then tasked with developing a *Goal Statement* and *Strategies* for their health issue. Once each workgroup had at least 2 strategies for the health issue, the participants reviewed the work for each issue. Participants provided feedback and added additional strategies as needed. In addition, participants worked collaboratively to structure the goals and strategies in the format associated with MAPP.



Workgroups were then provided the *Goal & Strategies* template on a large easel chart paper (see Appendix 4). Each workgroup selected at least two strategies from the list created in the previous step, and identified *Barriers/Challenges* from the master list which could prevent or act as a challenge to implementing and/or completing

the strategy. These were listed on the *Goal & Strategies* template. In addition, the workgroup identified factors associated with the *Implementation* of the strategy, such as a proposed timeline for completion, lead and key members, and resources.

Workgroups reviewed each other's work and provided feedback. Each group continued to add information on the *Goal & Strategies* template for their health issue. The workgroups also identified the ways in which "success" could be measured for each strategy. The goals and strategies developed during the workshop are found on the following pages. The priority issues included:

- Economic Health
- Health & Social Service Resources
- Access to Healthcare
- Social/Mental Health

## IDENTIFICATION OF PRIORITIES & GOALS

Gulf County Community Health Project – Strategic Priorities & Goals				
Priority Issue	Goal	Strategy	Implementation	Evaluation
Economic Health	Gulf County will strengthen its competitive environment to conduct business, encourage economic growth and create jobs.	<p><b>3. Speak w/ one voice.</b></p> <p>1.1. Develop communication on approach and tactics regarding the role and inter-relationship of community health and economic well-being.</p> <p>1.2. Create value proposition regarding Gulf County health, social and education infrastructure.</p> <p>1.3. Distribute/communicate value position to site consultants, business prospects, employers, government/ political representatives and partner organizations engaged in job creation.</p> <p>1.4. Incorporate value prop or other info into Economic Development Council's strategic plan.</p>	<p><b>TIMELINE</b> 6 months</p> <p><b>LEAD &amp; TEAM MEMBERS</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Economic Development Council</li> <li>• Chamber of Commerce Florida Great Northwest (research)</li> <li>• Gulf Healthcare Trust Fund Committee</li> <li>• Opportunity Florida</li> <li>• Florida Association of Counties - Gulf representation</li> <li>• Small County Coalition</li> </ul> <p><b>RESOURCES</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Research</li> <li>• Marketing expertise-value property development</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Output is measure/ qualitative.</li> <li>• Web hits on Gulf web site.</li> <li>• Mailings.</li> </ul>

Priority Issue	Goal	Strategy	Implementation	Evaluation
Economic Health (continued)	Gulf County will strengthen its competitive environment to conduct business, encourage economic growth and create jobs. (continued)	<p><b>2. Leverage Gulf County designations (e.g. Rural Areas of Critical Economic Concern (RACEC), Enterprise Zone) to maximize funding and incentives available to fund development of needed community resources.</b></p> <p>2.1. Identify and research all rules and requirements for Rural Areas of Critical Economic Concern (RACEC), Economic Zone and Florida incentive programs.</p> <p>2.2. Identify priority community needs and match to specific program.</p> <p>2.3. Prepare applications.</p> <p>2.4. Advocate for funding.</p>	<p><b>TIMELINE:</b>  Activity A: 3 months  Activity B: 1 year  Activity C: 3 years (ongoing)  Activity D: Ongoing</p> <p><b>LEAD &amp; TEAM MEMBERS</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Workforce Development Board (Kim Bodine)</li> <li>• Economic Development Council</li> <li>• Opportunity Florida - 3 months</li> <li>• Gulf County HealthCare Trust Committee</li> <li>• Gulf Coast State College (Loretta Coston) - 1 year</li> </ul> <p><b>RESOURCES</b>  To be determined</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Site consultant visits.</li> <li>• Document \$250,000 in new economic \$\$ associated with application.</li> </ul>

Priority Issue	Goal	Strategy	Implementation	Evaluation
Health & Social Services Resources	Increase awareness of community health, spiritual, and social services available in Gulf County.	1. <b>Build quality of life resource directory.</b>	<p><b>TIMELINE:</b> December 2012</p> <p><b>LEAD &amp; TEAM MEMBERS</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ashley Fights (lead)</li> <li>• 6 County Health Departments</li> <li>• Sacred Heart Health System</li> <li>• Emergency Management</li> <li>• Ministers groups</li> <li>• Gulf city and county governments</li> </ul> <p><b>RESOURCES</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Current list</li> <li>• Web space</li> <li>• Sacred Heart Health System</li> <li>• Gulf County Health Department</li> </ul>	To be determined

Priority Issue	Goal	Strategy	Implementation	Evaluation
Health & Social Services Resources (continued)	Increase awareness of community health, spiritual, and social services available in Gulf County. (continued)	<b>2. Build media campaign to promote quality of life resource directory.</b>	<p><b>TIMELINE:</b> January 2013 – December 2013</p> <p><b>LEAD &amp; TEAM MEMBERS</b> See Strategy 1 lead and team members</p> <p><b>RESOURCES</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Local cable network</li> <li>• Local newspaper</li> <li>• Churches</li> <li>• Senior Center</li> <li>• Medical providers</li> <li>• Library</li> <li>• Department of Children &amp; Families</li> <li>• Workforce</li> <li>• WIC</li> <li>• North Florida Child Development</li> <li>• Grocery stores</li> <li>• Public housing</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Number of directions handed out.</li> <li>• Number of views on website(s).</li> <li>• Utilize current patient satisfaction surveys.</li> <li>• On website survey how they heard about us and if it was helpful.</li> <li>• Averaging 10 views on website a month, over a year time frame.</li> <li>• Increase to 75% of Gulf County Health Department survey respondents who are aware of community preventive care programs.</li> <li>• Decrease to 4% in the Gulf County Health Department survey stated they are not aware of resources on mental health.</li> <li>• Decrease to 60% stated on Gulf County Health Department survey they are not aware of substances resources.</li> </ul>

Priority Issue	Goal	Strategy	Implementation	Evaluation
Access to Healthcare	All people living in our communities will have access to high quality, affordable healthcare services.	<p><b>1. Develop a comprehensive communication plan to increase public awareness and promote proper utilization of services.</b></p> <p>1.1. Identify and implement engagement strategies for preventive care, lifestyle and chronic disease management. (public outreach and education)</p> <p>1.2. Create access portal strategy to meet community residents at work, faith, home, etc.</p>	<p><b>TIMELINE:</b> Develop plan: 12 months Implement plan: Following 2 years</p> <p><b>LEAD &amp; TEAM MEMBERS</b> To be determined</p> <p><b>RESOURCES</b> All communication channels</p>	The percentage of residents who could not see a physician due to cost will lower at least to the state level within 3 years according to the community health assessment.
		<p><b>2. Strengthen communication, coordination and collaboration among healthcare providers and partner service agencies.</b></p> <p>2.1. Promote navigation services among providers to better serve clients/patients.</p> <p>2.2. Launch referral trading mechanism.</p>	<p><b>TIMELINE:</b> 12 months</p> <p><b>LEAD &amp; TEAM MEMBERS</b> All healthcare and community service providers</p> <p><b>RESOURCES</b> To be determined</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The electronic referral platform (care scope) will include at least 10 organizations within the next 3 years.</li> <li>The number of avoidable hospitalizations will decrease at least to the state level within 3 years.</li> <li>The percentage of low-activity emergency room visits will decrease by 5 % over the next 3 years.</li> </ul>

Priority Issue	Goal	Strategy	Implementation	Evaluation
Access to Healthcare (continued)	All people living in our communities will have access to high quality, affordable healthcare services. (continued)	<p><b>3. Increase capacity</b></p> <p>3.1. More primary and specialty care providers</p> <p>3.2. Maximize available funding sources</p>	<p><b>TIMELINE:</b> 12 – 24 months</p> <p><b>LEAD &amp; TEAM MEMBERS</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Sacred Heart</li> <li>• Gulf County Health Department</li> <li>• Franklin County Health Department</li> </ul> <p><b>RESOURCES</b> To be determined</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Percentage of residents who could not see a physician due to cost will at least be at the state level within 3 years (see community health assessment).</li> <li>• The number of patients having to travel outside the county for specialty care will decrease by 10% over the next 3 years.</li> </ul>
Social/Mental Health	Improve social/mental health in Gulf County.	<p><b>1. Create an inventory of mental health resources available to community organizations.</b></p>	<p><b>TIMELINE:</b> To be determined</p> <p><b>LEAD &amp; TEAM MEMBERS</b> To be determined</p> <p><b>RESOURCES</b> Mental health providers</p>	To be determined
		<p><b>2. Increase capacity of mental health services.</b></p>	<p><b>TIMELINE</b> To be determined</p> <p><b>LEAD &amp; TEAM MEMBERS</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Community leaders</li> <li>• Faith-based organizations</li> <li>• Schools</li> <li>• Law enforcement</li> <li>• Health organizations</li> </ul> <p><b>RESOURCES</b> To be determined</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Increase capacity by 10%.</li> <li>• Implement &amp; analyze data for awareness of mental health services survey. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>o 55% of survey respondents indicate they are aware of mental health resources.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>

Priority Issue	Goal	Strategy	Implementation	Evaluation
Social/Mental Health (continued)	Improve social/mental health in Gulf County. (continued)	<b>3. Create an inventory of substance abuse resources available to community organizations.</b>	<b>TIMELINE:</b> To be determined  <b>LEAD &amp; TEAM MEMBERS</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Law enforcement</li> <li>• Health, faith</li> <li>• School</li> <li>• Community organizations</li> <li>• Citizens</li> <li>• See mental health groups</li> </ul> <b>RESOURCES</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Media</li> <li>• Campaign</li> <li>• Partnerships</li> <li>• Providers</li> </ul>	To be determined
		<b>4. Increase capacity of substance abuse services.</b>	<b>TIMELINE:</b> To be determined  <b>LEAD &amp; TEAM MEMBERS</b> To be determined  <b>RESOURCES</b> To be determined	

## SUMMARY / KEY FINDINGS



The information gathered during the Strategic Priorities & Goals workshop is an important component of the MAPP comprehensive community assessment process. These findings can be used in conjunction with the other three MAPP assessments to develop the Community Health Improvement Plan (CHIP) for implementation and evaluation within the Gulf County public health system.

Nationally, the current economic climate will continue to affect the local public health system and overall community throughout Gulf County and the state of Florida. Budget cuts and limited grant opportunities have led to a decrease in funding for various services, from social services to charity care, mental illness and Medicaid. With local, state, and federal budget cuts, public health systems are challenged to find creative ways of continuing services and leveraging resources through collaboration and partnership with more non-traditional partners. The *Economic Health* and *Access to Healthcare* were identified as two key priority health issues.

Continued unemployment and foreclosures result in a burdening of current health care and social service systems. Population growth and changing demographics also contribute to an increase in the need for services and programs. Gulf County is a rural community, and as such, challenges to both access to healthcare and the transportation infrastructure result. Changing demographics within Gulf County and the state of Florida also present the need to address language and cultural barriers. *Health & Social Services* is a priority issue which impacts the health of Gulf County residents.

There were other forces of change noted that are reflective of many issues on the national agenda. For example, health care reform, immigration reform, regulation of medical malpractice, use and overuse of technology, and need for sustainable energy resources are issues being considered on the national

level, but they would also have an impact on local and state health care and social service delivery systems. With the rise in unemployment, there is a greater need for mental health and counseling services. *Social/Mental Health* is a priority issue which impacts and is impacted by the other health issues identified in the workshop.

In summary, these strategic priorities and goals impact the community's ability to implement action plans and impact (positively) the health of the Gulf County community. These strategic priorities and goals impact multiple sectors of the Gulf County community and surrounding counties, and should be reviewed in conjunction with the other MAPP community health assessments.





## Gulf County Community Health Assessment Final Report 2012

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