



Union County Community Health Needs Assessment

November 2007

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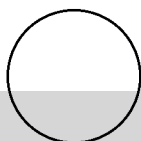
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Executive Summary

Introduction

In an effort to improve the health of the residents of Union County, a collaborative partnership was formed between the Union County Health Department and the WellFlorida Council for the purpose of conducting a health needs assessment of Union County. This assessment was supported by funds from the Florida Department of Health. The data included in this assessment was collected between the months of August and November of 2007. This needs assessment consists of demographic, socioeconomic, and health status information that will be used to identify areas where targeted interventions and policy changes may have the greatest impact. Once community needs are identified through quantitative data analysis of demographic, socioeconomic, and health status information and qualitative focus groups, the strategic planning process can begin.

The needs assessment includes the following sections:

- Demographic and Socioeconomic Profile
- Health Status
- Health Resource Availability and Access
- Community Input

This Executive Summary provides the summary of key findings from each of the major sections of the report.

Demographic and Socioeconomic Profile

The demographic and socioeconomic characteristics of Union County residents are reviewed in this section. Demographic and socioeconomic characteristics are often strong predictors of healthcare access and health outcome. Indicators selected for review in this section are the most influential in determining the extent of a community's overall health. The information provided in this section helps to establish a profile for the people of Union County and to determine demographic and socioeconomic barriers and opportunities for the improvement of community health.

Data in this section are presented for Union County and compared to Florida. In addition, zip code data is also presented when available and appropriate. Data indicators include population breakdown by age, race and gender; population growth and projections; poverty status; per capita and median income; educational attainment; and employment by industry size and type.

Population

- Union County's population is 15,282. The Lake Butler zip code (32054) contains 79.4 percent of Union County's total population.
- At the end of state fiscal year 2006-2007, 4,779 inmates were housed in Union County. In 2000, the inmate population represented 30.2 percent of Union County's total population.
- Union County's population is expected to increase 27.3 percent compared to 44.5 percent for Florida by 2030.
- The 32083 (Raiford) zip code area was the fastest growing zip code from 2000 through 2007, but is expected to show a slight decrease in population through 2012. The Lake Butler zip code area population also increased from 2000-2007 and is expected to continue increasing through 2012, but at a slower rate.
- With 73.8 percent of its population between the ages of 18-64 years compared to 60.6 percent for Florida as a whole, Union County is "younger" than most counties in Florida. The high percentage of working-age adults is due to the large number of inmates housed in the county.
- Only 8.4 percent of the population of the Raiford zip code area (32083) is under the age of 18, compared to 18.8 percent of the county and 21.5 percent in the state.
- Union County has a substantially higher percentage (26.3) of black residents than Florida as a whole (15.6 percent). Again, this is due in large part to the large percentage of black inmates housed in Union County correctional facilities.
- Only 5.0 percent of Union County residents are Hispanic compared to 20.5 percent of all Florida residents.
- Males outnumber females in Union County, due in large part to the large number of male inmates housed in Union County correctional facilities.

Economic Characteristics

- Median and per capita incomes of Union County residents are substantially lower than those of all Florida residents.
- No zip code area has a median or per capita income that is higher than Florida.
- 27.1 percent of Union County households have incomes less than \$25,000 compared to 23.3 percent for the state.
- While 7.0 percent of Florida households have incomes over \$150,000, only 2.7 percent of Union County households have the same.
- 14.0 percent of Union County persons fall below the federal poverty threshold compared to 12.5 percent for the state. However, 24.3 percent of the population falls between 100 and 200 percent of the federal poverty threshold compared to only 18.5 percent for all of Florida.
- Union County has a smaller percentage (15.2 percent) of its children in poverty than the state (17.6 percent).
- Since 2002, the unemployment rate in Union County was lower than the state of Florida, though both rates have decreased from 2002 through 2006.
- Union County has a higher percentage of small businesses (fewer than 20 employees) than Florida as a whole.

- In Union County, 61.6 percent of private business establishments are retail trade and service sector employers compared to 61.5 percent for Florida

Educational Attainment

- 27.5 percent of Union County residents (age 25 and older) have no high school diploma compared to slightly more than 20 percent for Florida as a whole.
- Only 12.4 percent of Union County residents have achieved a college degree compared to 29.4 percent of all Florida residents.
- Since 2000, the high school graduation rate has been higher than the state of Florida four of six years.
- Union County's drop-out rates were lower than the state rates since 2000.

Health Status

This section of the assessment reviews the health status of Union County residents. The primary focus of the health status assessment is to review various mortality and hospitalization data. The detailed assessment of the mortality and morbidity of Union County residents will enable the community to identify specific health indicators resulting in early death or unnecessary hospitalization and implement programs that will improve the overall health of the community.

The Health Status section will detail various mortality data, hospitalization statistics (in lieu of any other readily available morbidity data sources) and birth indicator data. An analysis of mental health status indicators including suicide rates, domestic violence rates, and Baker Act rates will also be presented in this section.

Leading Causes of Death

- From 2001 through 2005, an average of 163.4 deaths occurred each year in Union County, resulting in a crude rate of 1,148.7 per 100,000 of the population compared to a crude rate of 978.7 per 100,000 of the population of Florida.
- The average annual overall crude mortality rate in the 32054 (Lake Butler) zip code area was 1350.1 per 100,000. In the 32083 (Raiford) zip code area the average annual crude overall mortality rate was 581.6 per 100,000.
- Cancer (350.1 per 100,000) is the leading cause of death in Union County resulting in an average of 49.8 deaths per year followed by heart disease (232.0 per 100,000) resulting in an average of 33.0 deaths per year.
- From 2001-2005, the average annual age-adjusted mortality rate in Union County was 1,519.0 per 100,000 of the population compared to 751.8 per 100,000 of the population for the state of Florida.
- When adjusted for age, Union County residents have higher average annual mortality rates than the state for all 10 of the 10 leading causes of death.
- Most likely impacted by the high number of incarcerated persons in Union County, the average annual age-adjusted mortality rate for HIV and liver disease were more than 4 times higher in Union County than in Florida, 4.8 and 4.5 respectively.

- Although health disparities are present, the disparity between white and black residents for diabetes and HIV were more favorable in Union County than in Florida as a whole.
- Most unsettling was the finding that the black resident hypertension mortality rate was 32.6 times higher than the white resident rate in Union County and the disparity in rates was much more pronounced than for Florida as a whole.
- Since 1997 the age-adjusted all-cause mortality rate for Florida has decreased steadily. This trend is also true for Union County until the last data time frame in which the rate increased.
- The mortality from HIV and respiratory disease in Union County has decreased over the past ten years, while the deaths from HIV and respiratory disease for Florida have remained relatively stable.

Hospitalization

- The leading cause of hospitalization in Union County and Florida in 2004-2006 was for being a normal newborn followed by vaginal delivery without a complicating diagnosis. Esophagitis, gastroenteritis, and miscellaneous digestive disorders; chest pain; and simple pneumonia and pleurisy rounded out the top five causes of hospitalization in Union County.
- For children age 0-17, four of the top five leading causes of hospitalization were related to birth and related complications that may arise. However, bronchitis and asthma was the third leading cause. For older adults over the age of 65, simple pneumonia and pleurisy and heart failure and shock were tied for the leading cause of hospitalization.
- Private insurance was the leading payor source by percentage for Union County and the Lake Butler zip code area. In Florida, Medicare was the leading payor source resulting in approximately 41.8 percent of all discharges. The Raiford zip code area followed this trend as well.
- As expected due to its older population, Medicare patients had the longest length of stay compared to other payor sources in Union County and Florida.
- In 2006, there were over 18 avoidable hospitalizations per 1,000 population in Union County. This rate was higher than the avoidable hospitalizations for the state as a whole (13.5 per 1,000).

Birth Indicators

- Union County's birth rate was lower than the state as a whole. Unlike the trend we see in Florida, the birth rates of black residents of Union County were lower than that of white residents of Union County.
- Early access to prenatal care has been declining in Union County over the last decade. In addition, the early access to prenatal care rate has been slightly higher than the Florida rate since 1997.
- Union County has a lower rate of low birthweight births from 2001-2005 when compared to Florida. Unfortunately, the low birthweight rate for black residents was more than twice that of white residents in Union County and higher than their black counterparts throughout the state.

- The infant mortality rate for Union County was much lower than the Florida infant mortality rate from 2001-2005. Infant mortality has been steadily decreasing in Union County over the last decade.
- Teen birth rates were higher in Union County from 2001-2005 than for the state of Florida. But the black teen birth rate was nearly triple that for white teens in Union County, and both blacks and whites had higher teen birth rates than their counterparts for the entire state.
- The rates of teens with repeat births have increased for Union County in the last decade with the highest peak in 2000-2004. Since 1999-2003, the Union County rates have surpassed the rate for Florida.

Mental Health Indicators

- Suicide rates in Union County were slightly higher than the rates for Florida as a whole.
- The Union County rates for domestic violence have been much lower than the rates for the state of Florida, which have continued to decrease since 2003.
- The rate of hospitalizations due to mental health issues in Union County was lower than the state from 2002-2006. The rate for hospitalizations due to mental health issues peaked in 2004 in Union County; the rates have decreased since that time and are at the lowest since 2002.
- Baker Act initiations were lower in Union County than in Florida from 2001-2005.

Health Resource Availability and Access

This section will address the availability of healthcare resources to the residents of Union County. The availability of health resources is a critical component to the health of a county's residents and a measure of the soundness of the area's healthcare delivery system. Without an adequate supply of healthcare facilities, providers and services, maintaining good health status is a daunting challenge. Fewer facilities, providers and services means diminished opportunity to obtain healthcare in a timely fashion. Limited supply of health resources, especially providers, results in the limited capacity of the healthcare delivery system to absorb indigent and charity care as there are fewer providers among which to distribute the burden.

Provider Facility Supply

- Union County was designated as a medically underserved area by the federal government in 1978. Because these designations are typically reviewed every four years, the lack of review of the designations in this case warrants additional investigation.
- The low-income population has been designated a health professional shortage area by the federal government for primary medical care.
- The low-income/migrant workers population and the Reception and Medical Center correctional institute have been designated a health professional shortage area by the federal government for dental care.

- The correctional institutions in Union County along with the county itself has been designated a health professional shortage area by the federal government for mental health.
- The rate of licensed physicians and doctors of osteopathy per 100,000 population, with license addresses in Union County, is less than one-third that for Florida.

Access to Healthcare

- In 2007, there were over 3,000 non-elderly uninsured in Union County.
- The percentage of non-elderly uninsured in Union County in 2007 was 21.5 percent compared to 19.2 percent for the state.
- As of December 31, 2006, there were 1,862 Medicaid eligibles in Union County.
- Between 2002 and 2006, the eligible Medicaid population in Union County remained fairly stable while the total population increased.
- In Union County, HMO-PHP services accounted for 7.1 percent of the expenditures compared to 20.0 percent in Florida as a whole.
- Home and community-based services accounted for 21.4 percent of Medicaid expenditures in Union County compared to 9.4 percent in Florida as a whole.
- Prescription drugs accounted for nearly 22 percent of all Medicaid expenditures in Union County compared to only 8.7 percent for all of Florida.
- All HMO enrollment in Union County was identified as other enrollment including individuals, small group, Healthy Kids and federal employee programs. As of June 2006, there were no Medicaid or Medicare HMOs present in Union County.

Community Input

Quantitative data on demographics and health status alone do not fully capture the health status of a community, especially in regards to the community's healthcare needs as well as its ability to address those needs. Community input is essential when assessing the healthcare needs of any community, which is why qualitative and community perspective information has been incorporated into the needs assessment. Qualitative data for this component of the needs assessment were collected through six resident focus groups. The groups targeted African Americans, senior citizens, correctional system employees, Hispanic and working/low-income populations for the focus group discussions. The specific purpose of these focus groups was to gather information about health and healthcare services in Union County.

The Community Input section illustrates the effort to gauge community perspectives on health issues and priorities. The information provided in this section is crucial to the success of a county-wide needs assessment process and represents a key step in the process between the initial step of gathering the necessary quantitative data with the ultimate goal of improved healthcare and outcomes for all residents of Union County.

The following are the key observations derived from an analysis of the comments and insights gathered during the community input phase of the needs assessment:

- Focus group participants stressed that the healthcare services in Union County are very limited and travel to neighboring counties is absolutely necessary when needing to access specialty care.
- The cost of healthcare is a major barrier to healthcare for the residents of Union County, even those with health insurance. Community members stressed the need for affordable healthcare, like walk-in clinics. Also needed are opportunities for affordable health insurance and prescription medication assistance.
- Focus group participants identified having access to more resources that promote healthy lifestyles as a key area of concern; this is of particular concern for the youth. Many participants identified that there are very few healthy lifestyle opportunities available to the youth in the county.
- Focus group participants called for some forms of information outreach. The great majority of participants identified that lack of information about programs and services was a significant issue in the county.

Differences between the different population groups in this study were very apparent. The description below highlights some of the issues that were isolated to each population group.

African American

The African American groups expressed a feeling of unimportance and a history of not being treated well by healthcare providers in the community regardless of ability to pay for services. They also discussed that the availability and quality of services or resources was dependent upon whom you knew in the county. Those who were well known were more likely to get services or resources. They also identified potential issues regarding the confidentiality of health information when utilizing services at the Union County Health Department.

Low Income/Working Poor

The primary issue identified by this group was the need for affordable health insurance. The participants discussed the difficult decision they face regarding their health because they do not have the means to pay for their needed services. Group members expressed frustration in not qualifying for public assistance programs based on their income but not being able to afford the services they needed. Participants in this group also expressed the desire to be treated in the same way as those who have insurance or can pay for their services. Group participants also expressed a lack of knowledge about programs or services available in the community.

Correctional Facility Employees

The participants in this group recognized that the lack of local specialist providers was a barrier that they faced, but felt they could easily access the services they need in neighboring counties. The participants stressed that the insurance they receive through their employer helps them to improve and maintain their health. They also felt fortunate to be working in a system that recognizes the importance of health and wellness and

provides opportunities to engage in healthy activities at the worksite. Health fairs and other educational opportunities are encouraged by the correctional facilities in the county. But, they did recognize that the use of smokeless tobacco among male employees is a primary health issue in their population.

Seniors

The primary issue identified by seniors was the lack of information about health and healthcare services and the limited number of specialist providers in the county. Members of this group discussed how many people do not know what services are currently available. Traveling outside the county for services can be problematic. The participants were unsure of the eligibility requirement for transportation services. Additionally, there was considerable discussion about the need for recreation and exercise activities in the county to help maintain seniors' health. Other issues of concern included lack of affordable insurance (particularly vision and dental) and the cost of prescription medications.

Hispanic Group

Due to the small number of participants in the Hispanic group, generalizations should be made with caution. That aside, there was a sense of minimal knowledge about the services and resources available in Union County. The participants commented that cost of medical care was the most prohibitive factor in receiving care. The three participants in the group were unfamiliar with services offered at the health department or other providers in the county. The participants commented on avoiding or delaying healthcare because of the cost.

Demographic and Socioeconomic Characteristics

Introduction

The demographic and socioeconomic characteristics of Union County residents are reviewed in this section. Demographic and socioeconomic characteristics are often strong predictors of healthcare access and health outcome. Indicators selected for review in this section are some of the most influential in determining the extent of a community's overall health.

Data in this section are presented for Union County and compared to Florida. In addition, zip code data are also presented when available and appropriate. The information provided in this section helps to establish a profile for the people of Union County and to determine the demographic and socioeconomic barriers and opportunities to the improvement of community health. Data indicators include population breakdown by age, race and gender; population growth and projections; poverty status; per capita and median income; educational attainment; unemployment rates; and employment by size and industry.

Population

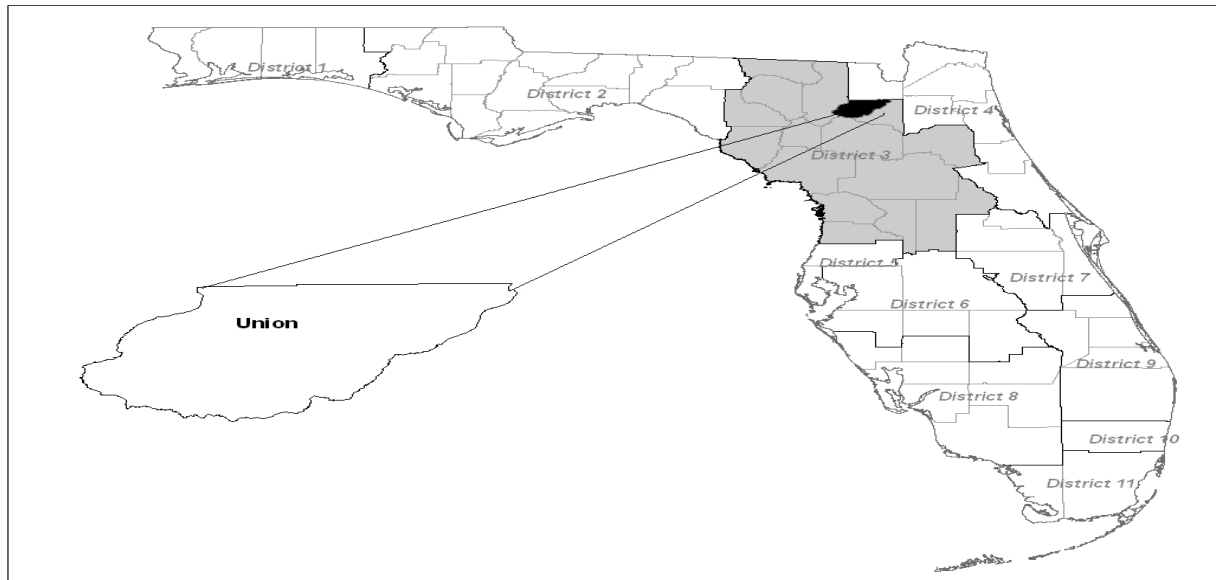
Clearly, the sheer number of people in a community is the leading determinant of the demand for healthcare services. Union County, which has a population of more than 15,000 (Table 2-1), is located in north central Florida. The county is bordered by Baker County on the north, Columbia County on the west, Bradford County on the east and Alachua County on the south. As seen in Figure 2-1, Union is one of 16 counties in north central Florida that comprise the Local Health Planning District 3 as designated by the Florida Agency for Health Care Administration (AHCA). The city of Lake Butler is the county seat with a population of more than 12,000.

For various population data elements, data are presented by zip code. Figure 2-2 outlines the zip codes in Union County. There are two zip codes that are self contained within the boundaries of Union County, Lake Butler (32054) and Raiford (32083). For each data element presented by zip code, the total sum of the zip code data is presented as well as the overall county totals. The differences in these data reflect the difference between the zip code demographics contained within the county limits and those that may be outside of the county boundaries. For example, as seen in Table 2-1, the county zip code total 2007 population is 15,263 and the county total is 15,282. This difference reflects the small number of individuals who reside inside Union County lines, but live in zip codes that are housed primarily outside of county limits.

It is important to note that Union County houses three correctional institutions within its county limits including Union Correctional Institution (UCI), Reception Medical Center (RMC) and Reception Medical Center West (RMC West) (Table 2-1a). At the end of state fiscal year 2006-2007, the three correctional facilities housed 4,779 inmates. The population data presented in

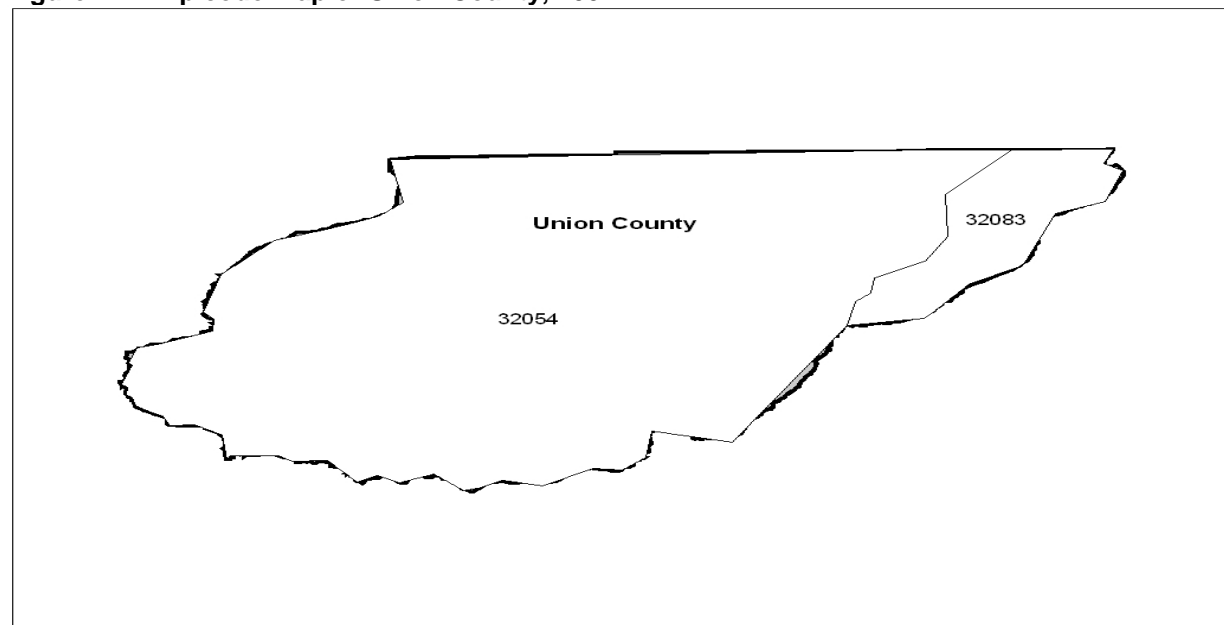
this section includes the inmates housed in the three correctional facilities in Union County. According to the 2000 United States Census, 30.2 percent of the population of Union County was identified as part of a correctional institution group population (Table 2-1b). In 2000, the correctional institution group population comprised 56.2 percent of Raiford and 22.1 percent of Lake Butler zip codes total population. The demographic characteristics of Union County are significantly impacted by the inmate population that resides in the county; therefore, generalizations made to the general population must be made with caution.

Figure 2-1. Union County and the Local Health Planning District 3.



Prepared by: WellFlorida Council, Inc., 2007.

Figure 2-2. Zip code map of Union County, 2007.



Prepared by: WellFlorida Council, Inc., 2007.

Population Growth and Distribution

As seen in Table 2-1, the population of Union County grew from 13,442 to 15,282 from 2000-2007. This represents a 13.7 percent increase, which is a slower than the increase in population for Florida as a whole (18.2 percent). From 2007-2012, the population growth in Union County is expected to level off (2.7 percent). This is inconsistent with the anticipated increase in population for the state as a whole (12.8 percent) during that same time period.

Lake Butler (32054) is the largest zip code in Union County by population size containing 79.4 percent of the population of Union County. At the zip code level, the population of Lake Butler (32054) and Raiford (32083) increased 13.1 percent and 15.9 percent, respectively from 2000-2007. Though the total population in both zip codes increased, they did not exceed the rate of population growth for Florida as a whole. Only the Lake Butler zip code (32054) is projected to continue to grow through 2012 but at a slower pace (3.4 percent) than the previous seven years and compared to the projected population growth of the state (12.8 percent).

Table 2-1. Population growth and percent change by zip code, Union County and Florida, 2000-2012.

Area	2000 Population	2007 Population	2012 Population	Percent Change 2000 - 2007	Percent Change 2007 - 2012	Percent Change 2000 - 2012
32054 Lake Butler	10,710	12,116	12,528	13.1	3.4	17.0
32083 Raiford	2,715	3,147	3,145	15.9	-0.1	15.8
Union Zip Codes	13,425	15,263	15,673	13.7	2.7	16.7
Union County	13,442	15,282	15,693	13.7	2.7	16.7
Florida	15,982,378	18,893,813	21,311,920	18.2	12.8	33.3

Source: ESRI Business Solutions, 2007.

Prepared by: WellFlorida Council Inc., 2007.

Table 2-1a. Number of inmates by prison in Union County on June 30, 2006.

Prison	Inmates	Percent of State
Union Correctional Institute (UCI)	2,065	2.3
Reception Medical Center (RMC)	1,466	1.7
Reception Medical Center West (RMC West)	1,248	1.4
Total for Union County	4,779	5.4
Florida Total	88,576	

Source: Florida Department of Corrections; 2005-2006 Annual Report.

Prepared by: WellFlorida Council Inc., 2007.

Table 2-1b. Correctional institutions population by zip code, Union County and Florida, 2000.

Area	2000 Total Population	2000 Institutionalized Population: Correctional Institutions	Percent of Total Population
32054 Lake Butler	10,488	2,322	22.1
32083 Raiford	3,095	1,739	56.2
Union Zip Codes	13,583	4,061	29.9
Union County	13,442	4,061	30.2
Florida	15,982,378	139,148	0.9

Source: U.S. Department of Commerce, Census Bureau, Summary File 1, 2000.

Prepared by: WellFlorida Council Inc., 2007.

Please note that the population projections in Tables 2-1 and 2-2 come from two different sources as zip code data projections are available from one source through 2012 and whole county population projections are available from another source through 2030. For this reason, total population estimates for Union County might differ in the two tables as the sources employ different estimating techniques.

As stated, data are not available projecting population growth in zip code areas beyond 2012. Long-term (10-, 15-, 20- and 25-year) population growth projections for Union County and Florida have been provided from the Bureau of Economic and Business Research at the University of Florida (Table 2-2). Table 2-2 shows that through 2030 Union County will experience population growth at rates (27.3 percent) lower than the state as a whole (44.5 percent).

Table 2-2. Population growth and percent change, Union County and Florida, 2006-2030.

Year	Number		Percent Change		
	Union County	Florida	Year	Union County	Florida
2006	15,028	18,349,132			
2015	17,032	21,831,514	2006-2015	13.3	19.0
2020	17,804	23,552,136	2006-2020	18.5	28.4
2025	18,494	25,085,972	2006-2025	23.1	36.7
2030	19,133	26,513,332	2006-2030	27.3	44.5

Source: Bureau of Economic and Business Research, University of Florida, *Florida Population Studies*, 2006.

Prepared by: WellFlorida Council Inc., 2007.

As shown in Table 2-3, Lake Butler, Raiford, and Worthington Springs are the incorporated areas of Union County. Only 17.7 percent of the population of Union County resides in incorporated areas, compared to 82.3 percent in unincorporated areas. From 2000-2006, the Worthington Springs incorporated area experienced 156.0 percent growth while the Lake Butler incorporated area experienced a -0.5 percent decrease in population. The population in the Union County incorporated areas increased 15.4 percent from 2000-2006, while the growth of incorporated areas for Florida as a whole was 18.0 percent.

Table 2-3. Population by incorporated and unincorporated areas, Union County and Florida, 2000 and 2006.

Area	2000 Population	2006 Population	Total Change	
			Number	Percent
Lake Butler	1,927	1,917	-10	-0.5
Raiford	187	251	64	34.2
Worthington Springs	193	494	301	156.0
Union County	13,442	15,028	1,586	11.8
Incorporated	2,307	2,662	355	15.4
Unincorporated	11,135	12,366	1,231	11.1
Florida	15,982,824	18,349,132	2,366,308	14.8
Incorporated	7,905,318	9,331,989	1,426,671	18.0
Unincorporated	8,077,506	9,017,143	939,637	11.6

Source: Bureau of Economic and Business Research, University of Florida, *Florida Estimates of Population, 2006*.
Prepared by: WellFlorida Council Inc., 2007.

Population by Age, Race and Gender

Age, race and gender are all factors that contribute to, or at the very least, help describe aspects of healthcare access and health outcome in the United States. Typically, older persons will have more healthcare service needs and suffer from high mortality compared to their younger counterparts. Healthcare research in the United States has long shown that there exist racial disparities in access to healthcare and in key health outcomes. In addition, the primary healthcare needs of males and females can differ greatly, especially at different critical stages of life. Reviewing population characteristics based on age, race and gender allows for factoring into health needs analyses the differences and disparities that exist in certain population groups.

Age

As seen in Table 2-4 and Figure 2-3, Union County has a younger population than Florida as a whole. More than 11,000 of Union County's residents are age 18 to 64. This equates to 73.8 percent of the population compared to 60.6 percent of the population of Florida falling in this age group. The high percentage of working-age adults is due to the large number of inmates housed in the correctional facilities in the county (Table 2-4a). In 2000, 97.0 percent (3,939 inmates) of the correctional population was between the ages of 18-64 years.

With such a higher proportion of working-age adults compared to the state, it is expected that the proportion of those ages 0-17 and 65 and older would be much lower for Union County than the state of Florida. Table 2-4 shows that 18.8 percent of the population is between the ages of 0 to 17 in Union County compared to 21.5 percent in Florida. The percentage of elderly, 65 years of age and older, in Union County (7.4 percent) is substantially lower than the state of Florida as a whole (17.9 percent).

If the 2000 correctional population presented in Table 2-4a is subtracted from the 2007 population data in Table 2-4, the age distribution for Union County shifts more closely to the

population of Florida as a whole, but there still remains a larger percentage of working-age adults (65.1 percent) and a smaller percentage of elderly residents (9.1 percent), but the percentage of residents 0-17 years of age (25.5 percent) is higher than the percentage of residents in this age group for the state of Florida (21.5 percent). Due to the seven year difference in the two data sources compared, this information should be considered as an estimate at best.

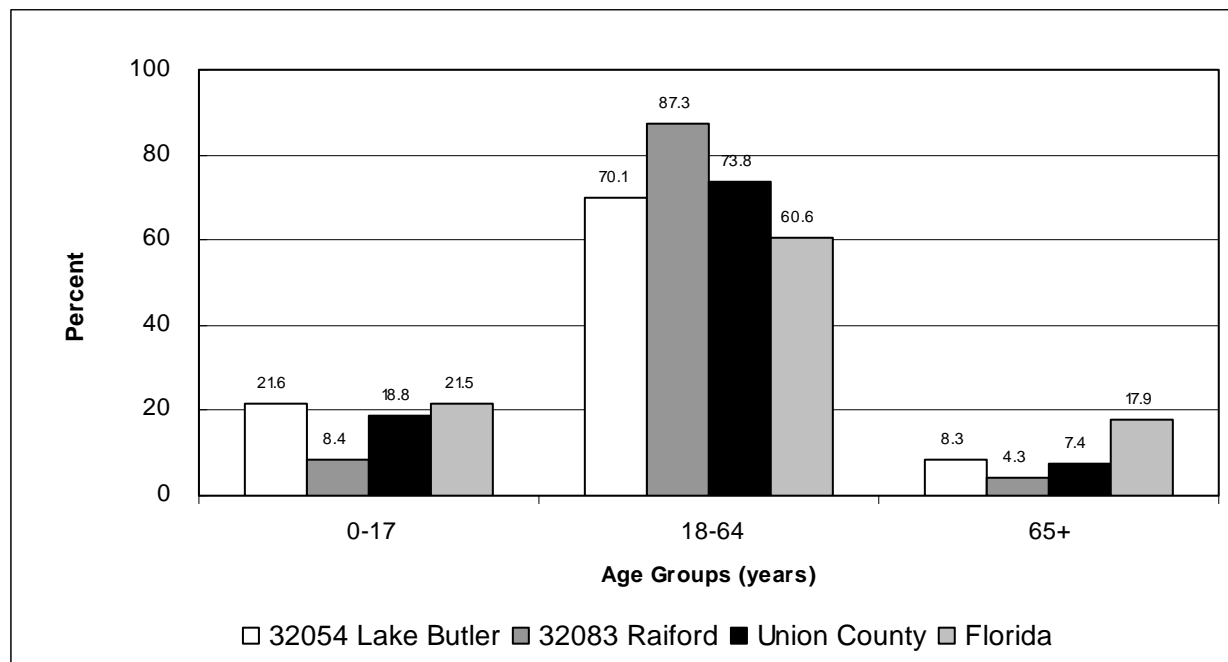
Table 2-4. Population by age, by zip code, Union County and Florida, 2007.

Area	2007 Population	0-17		18-64		65+	
		Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
32054 Lake Butler	12,116	2,617	21.6	8,493	70.1	1,006	8.3
32083 Raiford	3,147	264	8.4	2,747	87.3	135	4.3
Union Zip Codes	15,263	2,881	18.9	11,241	73.6	1,141	7.5
Union County	15,282	2,873	18.8	11,278	73.8	1,131	7.4
Florida	18,893,813	4,062,170	21.5	11,449,651	60.6	3,381,993	17.9

Source: ESRI Business Solutions, 2007.

Prepared by: WellFlorida Council Inc., 2007.

Figure 2-3. Union County and zip code population by age compared to Florida, 2007.



Source: ESRI Business Solutions, 2007.

Prepared by: WellFlorida Council, Inc., 2007.

Table 2-4 shows that zip code 32083 has a much lower percentage (8.4 percent) of youth under the age of 17 compared to the state of Florida (21.5 percent). Both zip codes in Union County have percentages of residents age 18 to 64 that are higher than the state of Florida: 32083 (87.3 percent) and 32054 (70.1 percent). Again, the age distributions in these zip codes are significantly impacted by the higher number of inmates residing in these zip codes, which accounted for 56.2 percent of the total population in Raiford (32083) and 22.1 percent of the population in Lake Butler (32054) during 2000.

Table 2-4a. Correctional institutions population by age, by zip code, Union County and Florida, 2000.

Area	2000 Institutionalized Population: Correctional Institutions	0-17		18-64		65+	
		Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
32054 Lake Butler	2,322	17	0.7	2,242	96.6	63	2.7
32083 Raiford	1,739	0	0.0	1,697	97.6	42	2.4
Union Zip Codes	4,061	17	0.4	3,939	97.0	105	2.6
Union County	4,061	17	0.4	3,939	97.0	105	2.6
Florida	139,148	1,455	1.0	136,383	98.0	1,310	0.9

Source: U.S. Department of Commerce, Census Bureau, Summary File 1, 2000.

Prepared by: WellFlorida Council Inc., 2007.

Table 2-5 provides a finer breakdown of population by age. Of particular interest is the percentage of residents between the ages of 25-44. This age group represents more than 39 percent of the population of Union County, compared to 25.5 percent of the population of Florida. One can assume that this is the age group most significantly impacted by the high number of incarcerated persons in the county.

Table 2-5. Population by age, by zip code, Union County and Florida, 2007.

Area	2007 Population	0-4		5-9		10-14	
		Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
32054 Lake Butler	12,116	800	6.6	678	5.6	642	5.3
32083 Raiford	3,147	69	2.2	66	2.1	60	1.9
Union Zip Codes	15,263	869	5.7	745	4.9	702	4.6
Union County	15,282	764	5.0	749	4.9	703	4.6
Florida	18,893,813	1,133,629	6.0	1,058,054	5.6	1,133,629	6.0
Area	15-24		25-44		45-64		
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	
32054 Lake Butler	1,951	16.1	4,289	35.4	2,750	22.7	
32083 Raiford	227	7.2	1,680	53.4	906	28.8	
Union Zip Codes	2,177	14.3	5,970	39.1	3,657	24.0	
Union County	2,185	14.3	5,991	39.2	3,652	23.9	
Florida	1,956	12.8	3,897	25.5	4,004	26.2	
Area	65-84		85+		18+		
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	
32054 Lake Butler	897	7.4	109	0.9	9,499	78.4	
32083 Raiford	126	4.0	9	0.3	2,883	91.6	
Union Zip Codes	1,022	6.7	118	0.8	12,382	81.1	
Union County	1,024	6.7	107	0.7	12,409	81.2	
Florida	2,323	15.2	413	2.7	11,996	78.5	

Source: ESRI Business Solutions, 2007.

Prepared by: WellFlorida Council Inc., 2007.

Race and Ethnicity

Table 2-6 and Figure 2-4 provide information on the race of the population in Union County. While the percentage of the Florida population that is white is 75.4 percent, Union County's white residents comprise 69.3 percent of the county total. While the black population in Florida is 15.6 percent of the total population, the black population is 26.3 percent of Union County's total. The greatest concentration of the black population, as a percentage of total population, resides in the Raiford zip code.

Table 2-6a provides information on the race of the correctional institution population in Union County for 2000. The black population represents 43.7 percent of the total inmate population, compared to whites, who represent 50.1 percent of the total inmate population.

If the 2000 correctional population presented in Table 2-6a is subtracted from the 2007 population data in Table 2-6, the percentage of black residents (20.1 percent) in Union County remains higher than the percentage of black residents for Florida (15.6 percent) as a whole. On the other hand, the proportion of white residents (76.3 percent) in Union County becomes slightly higher than the proportion of white residents in Florida (75.4) as a whole. Due to the seven year difference in the two data sources compared, this information should be considered as an estimate at best.

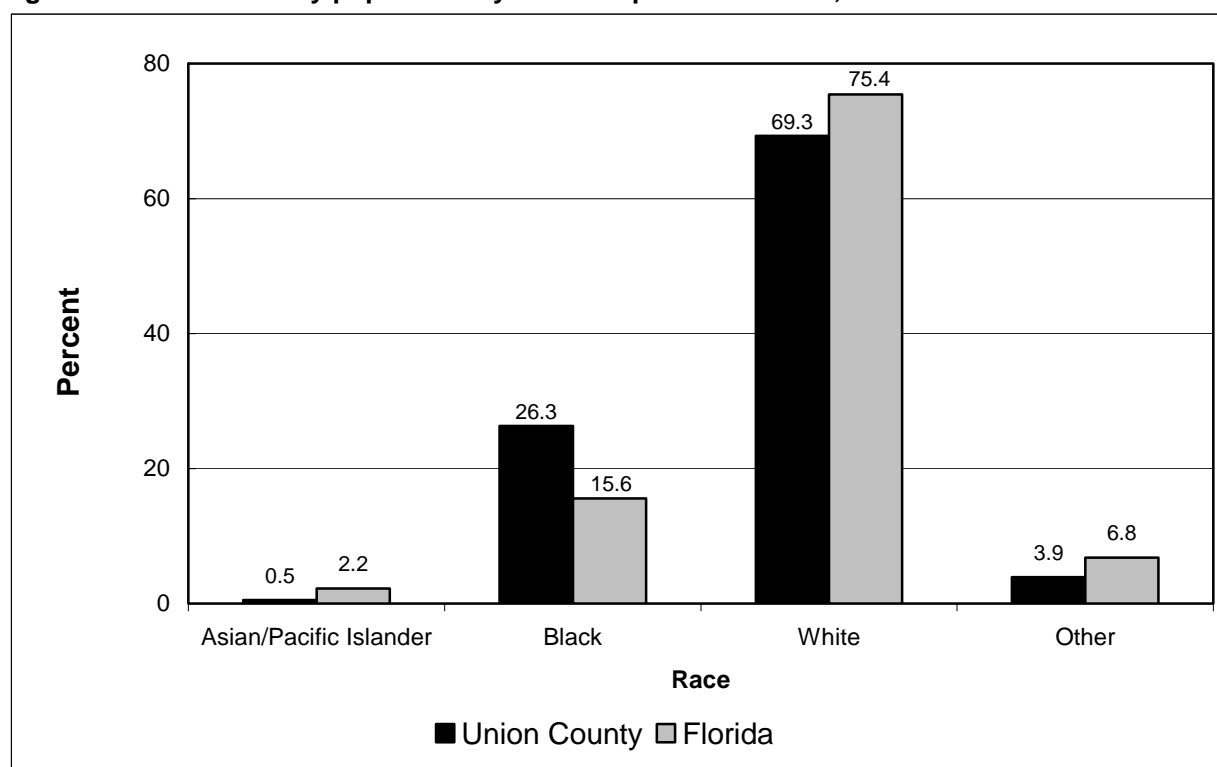
Table 2-6. Population by race, by zip code, Union County and Florida, 2007.

Area	2007 Population	Asian/Pacific Islander		Black	
		Number	Percent	Number	Percent
32054 Lake Butler	12,116	48	0.4	2,993	24.7
32083 Raiford	3,147	22	0.7	1,016	32.3
Union Zip Codes	15,263	70	0.5	4,009	26.3
Union County	15,282	76	0.5	4,019	26.3
Florida	18,893,813	415,664	2.2	2,947,435	15.6
Area	White		Other		
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	
32054 Lake Butler	8,614	71.1	460	3.8	
32083 Raiford	1,961	62.3	148	4.7	
Union Zip Codes	10,575	69.3	608	4.0	
Union County	10,590	69.3	596	3.9	
Florida	14,245,935	75.4	1,284,779	6.8	

Source: ESRI Business Solutions, 2007.

Prepared by: WellFlorida Council Inc., 2007.

Figure 2-4. Union County population by race compared to Florida, 2007.



Source: ESRI Business Solutions, 2007.
Prepared by: WellFlorida Council Inc., 2007.

Table 2-6a. Correctional institutions population by race, by zip code, Union County and Florida, 2000.

Florida, 2000:

Area	2000 Institutionalized Population: Correctional Institutions	Asian/Pacific Islander		Black	
		Number	Percent	Number	Percent
32054 Lake Butler	2,322	10	0.4	1,085	46.7
32083 Raiford	1,739	6	0.3	691	39.7
Union Zip Codes	4,061	16	0.4	1,776	43.7
Union County	4,061	16	0.4	1,776	43.7
Florida	139,148	562	0.4	67,186	48.3
Area	White		Other		
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	
32054 Lake Butler	1,076	46.3	151	6.5	
32083 Raiford	957	55.0	85	4.9	
Union Zip Codes	2,033	50.1	236	5.8	
Union County	2,033	50.1	236	5.8	
Florida	64,741	46.5	6,659	4.8	

Source: U.S. Department of Commerce, Census Bureau, Summary File 1, 2000.
Prepared by: WellFlorida Council Inc., 2007.

As seen in Table 2-7 and Figure 2-5, over 20 percent of Florida's total population is of Hispanic ethnicity. This percentage is substantially lower in Union County (5.0 percent). The Union County zip code area with the highest percentage (6.2 percent) of Hispanic residents is 32083 (Raiford).

In 2000, 13.2 percent of Florida's incarcerated population was Hispanic compared to 7.5 percent of Union County's incarcerated population (Table 2-7a). If the 2000 correctional population presented in Table 2-7a is subtracted from the 2007 population data in Table 2-7, the proportion of Hispanic population (4.9 percent) in Union County remains much less than the proportion of Hispanic population for Florida (20.5 percent) as a whole. Therefore, the number of Hispanic inmates does not significantly impact the Hispanic population for Union County as a whole. Due to the seven year difference in the two data sources compared, this information should be considered as an estimate at best.

Table 2-7. Population by Hispanic ethnicity, by zip code, Union County and Florida, 2007.

Area	2007 Population	Hispanic		Non-Hispanic	
		Number	Percent	Number	Percent
32054 Lake Butler	12,116	569	4.7	11,547	95.3
32083 Raiford	3,147	195	6.2	2,952	93.8
Union Zip Codes	15,263	765	5.0	14,498	95.0
Union County	15,282	764	5.0	14,518	95.0
Florida	18,893,813	3,873,232	20.5	15,020,581	79.5

Source: ESRI Business Solutions, 2007.

Prepared by: WellFlorida Council Inc., 2007.

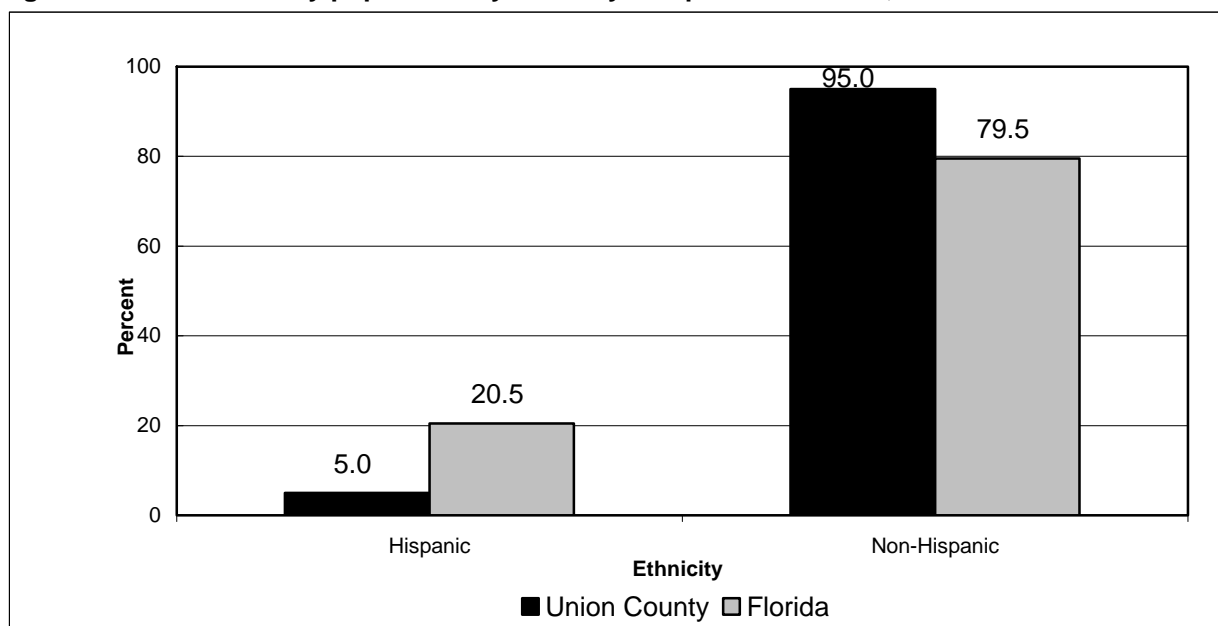
Table 2-7a. Correctional institutions population by Hispanic ethnicity, by zip code, Union County and Florida, 2000.

Area	2000 Institutionalized Population: Correctional Institutions	Hispanic		Non-Hispanic	
		Number	Percent	Number	Percent
32054 Lake Butler	2,322	194	8.4	2,128	91.6
32083 Raiford	1,739	110	6.3	1,629	93.7
Union Zip Codes	4,061	304	7.5	3,757	92.5
Union County	4,061	304	7.5	3,757	92.5
Florida	139,148	18,351	13.2	120,797	86.8

Source: U.S. Department of Commerce, Census Bureau, Summary File 1, 2000.

Prepared by: WellFlorida Council Inc., 2007.

Figure 2-5. Union County population by ethnicity compared to Florida, 2007.



Source: ESRI Business Solutions, 2007.
Prepared by: WellFlorida Council Inc., 2007.

Gender

Females typically have longer life expectancies in the United States and in Florida. Because of this phenomenon, communities that are older, tend to have a higher percentage of females in the population. Table 2-8 shows that this is not the case in Union County. While 51.2 percent of Florida residents are female, only 33.8 percent of Union County residents are female. The percentage of female residents is significantly impacted by the inmate population in Union County. According to the Florida County Detention Facility Average Inmate Population Report for May 2007, males comprised 85.6 percent of the adult inmate population in Florida. Of the correctional facilities in Union County, less than 1 percent of all inmates were female in 2000. Though entire Union County is impacted by the number of male inmates, the 32083 (Raiford) zip code area is impacted most significantly, only 14.4 percent of residents in this zip code are female.

Table 2-8. Population by gender, by zip code, Union County and Florida, 2007.

Area	2007 Population	Males		Females	
		Number	Percent	Number	Percent
32054 Lake Butler	12,116	7,403	61.1	4,713	38.9
32083 Raiford	3,147	2,694	85.6	453	14.4
Union Zip Codes	15,263	10,097	66.2	5,166	33.8
Union County	15,282	10,117	66.2	5,165	33.8
Florida	18,893,813	9,220,181	48.8	9,673,632	51.2

Source: ESRI Business Solutions, 2007.
Prepared by: WellFlorida Council, Inc. 2007.

Economic Characteristics

The economic status, and often the health status, of a region and its residents can be assessed by examining a variety of economic characteristics. Some of the most critical include income, poverty status and employment. Higher incomes, lower poverty and better employment have all been shown to impact health access and health outcome favorably. Conversely, lower income, higher poverty and poorer employment are definite predictors of a lack of access to healthcare and adverse health outcomes. In this section, these standard measures of income, poverty status and employment are used to compare Union County with the state of Florida.

Income

As shown in Table 2-9, the median household income for Union County (\$41,388) is substantially lower than the state (\$48,591). The median household income in Union County is lowest in Lake Butler zip code area (\$40,935). The median household income in the Raiford zip code is \$48,081, just slightly lower than that of the state (\$48,591).

Table 2-9 also shows per capita income levels for Union County and its zip code areas as they compare to the state. As with median income, the per capita income in Union County (\$17,678) is substantially less than Florida (\$27,311). Unlike the median household income, per capita income is lowest in the Raiford zip code area (\$16,747), though both zip codes per capita income are substantially lower than the state.

Table 2-9. Median household income and per capita income by zip code, Union County and Florida, 2007.

Area	Total Households	Average Household Size	Medium Household Income	Per Capita Income
32054 Lake Butler	3,383	2.7	\$40,935	\$17,906
32083 Raiford	328	2.8	48,081	16,747
Union Zip Codes	3,711	NA	42,408	NA
Union County	3,719	2.7	41,388	17,678
Florida	7,510,601	2.5	48,591	27,311

Source: ESRI Business Solutions, 2007.
Prepared by: WellFlorida Council Inc., 2007.

Table 2-10 depicts household income distribution in Union County by zip code. Union County has a greater percentage of households with less than \$25,000 (27.1 percent) and \$25,000-\$49,999 (33.0 percent) than the state (23.3 percent and 28.0 percent, respectively). The Raiford zip code area has the lowest percentage of households with less than \$25,000 (19.8 percent) and \$25,000-\$49,999 (31.4 percent) in the county, but both Union County zip code areas have a higher proportion of residents with incomes under \$49,999 than the state of Florida.

At the opposite end of the spectrum, while 7.0 percent of Florida households have incomes over \$150,000, only 2.7 percent of Union County households have the same. In the Raiford zip code only 0.9 percent of the households have an income over \$150,000.

Table 2-10. Households by income levels, by zip code, Union County and Florida, 2007.

Area	Total Households	Less than \$25,000		\$25,000-\$49,999	
		Number	Percent	Number	Percent
32054 Lake Butler	3,383	940	27.8	1,123	33.2
32083 Raiford	328	65	19.8	103	31.4
Union Zip Codes	3,711	1,005	27.1	1,226	33.0
Union County	3,719	1,008	27.1	1,227	33.0
Florida	7,510,601	1,749,970	23.3	2,102,968	28.0

Area	\$ 50,000-\$99,999		\$100,000-\$149,999		\$150,000 and Over	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
32054 Lake Butler	1,045	30.9	176	5.2	98	2.9
32083 Raiford	128	39.0	29	8.8	3	0.9
Union Zip Codes	1,173	31.6	205	5.5	101	2.7
Union County	1,175	31.6	205	5.5	100	2.7
Florida	2,350,818	31.3	781,103	10.4	525,742	7.0

Source: ESRI Business Solutions, 2007.
Prepared by: WellFlorida Council Inc., 2007.

Poverty

Each year, the United States Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) establishes national poverty levels (Table 2-11). These levels are established by comparing annual income to “poverty thresholds.” The thresholds vary by family size. For example, a family of four living in the 48 contiguous states and D.C is considered to be living in poverty in 2007 if the household income is below \$20,650. A poverty rate for a county is the percentage of the county’s individuals that have an annual income or live in a household with an annual income below the poverty threshold.

Table 2-11. 2007 Federal poverty levels.

Persons in Family or Household	48 Contiguous States and D.C.	Alaska	Hawaii
1	\$10,210	\$12,770	\$11,750
2	13,690	17,120	15,750
3	17,170	21,470	19,750
4	20,650	25,820	23,750
5	24,130	30,170	27,750
6	27,610	34,520	31,750
7	31,090	38,870	35,750
8	34,570	43,220	39,750
For each additional person, add	3,480	4,350	4,000

Source: Federal Register, vol. 72, no. 15, January 24, 2007.
Prepared by: WellFlorida Council Inc., 2007.

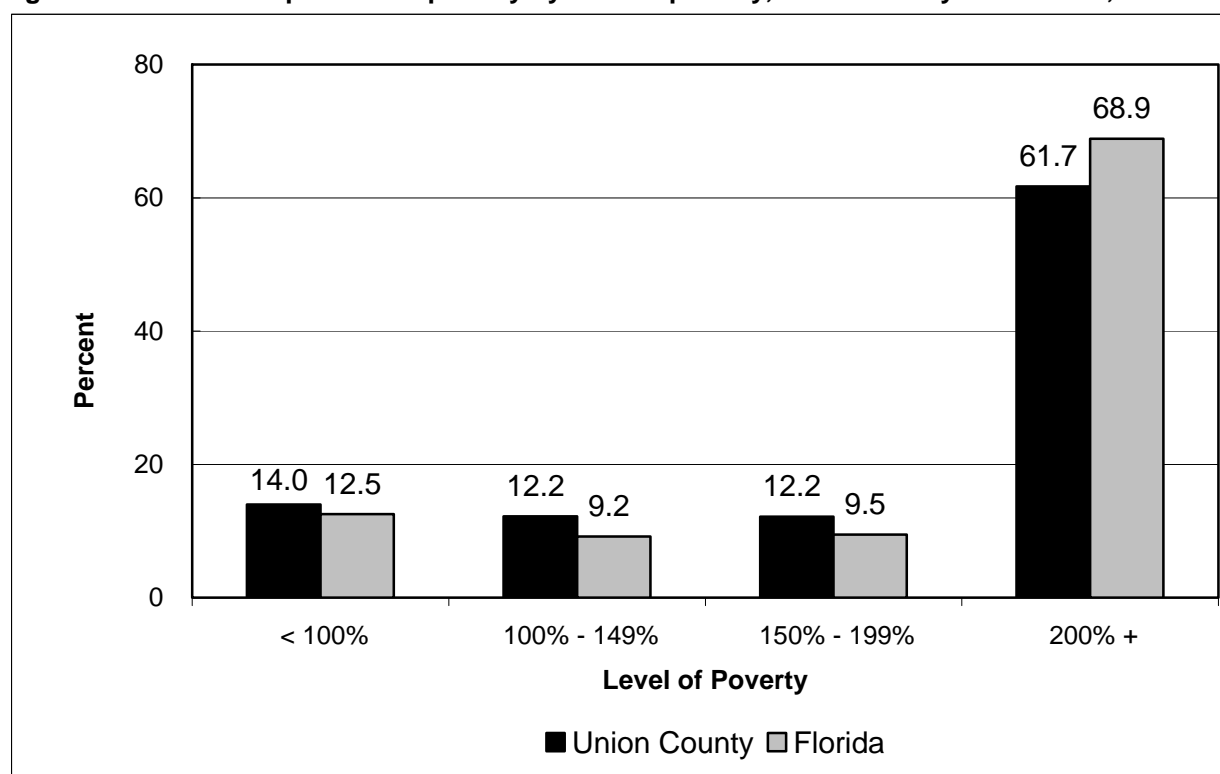
Poverty data is estimated during each decennial census. The latest poverty rates available are for the 2000 census (based on 1999 income). In the analysis that follows, it is assumed that the latest poverty rate from the 2000 census is the best available estimate of the state and local poverty rate. In order to calculate numbers of persons in poverty, children and households in poverty (Tables 2-12-2-14), the 2000 census poverty percentages are used with the 2007 population data.

Figure 2-6 shows that, in terms of poverty rate, Union County compares unfavorably to the state as a whole. While 12.5 percent of Florida's population is estimated to be in poverty, 14.0 percent of Union County's population lives below the poverty threshold (i.e., 100 percent of the federal poverty level). However, 24.3 percent of Union County residents are estimated to be between 100 and 200 percent of the federal poverty level compared to only 18.5 percent for all of Florida. Union County has high levels of low-income persons as reflected in the earlier analysis of the median and per capita incomes.

An examination of poverty status by zip code (Table 2-13) reveals that both zip codes in Union County, 32054 (Lake Butler) and 32083 (Raiford) have a poverty rate (14.2 percent and 15.6, respectively) for individuals higher than that of Florida (12.5 percent). The same is true for the percentage of households in poverty; Union County (15.2 percent) and its two zip codes (Lake Butler, 15.5 percent and Raiford, 14.9 percent) have a higher percentage of households in poverty than that of Florida (11.7 percent). On the other hand, while in Florida 17.6 percent of all children live at or below the poverty threshold, Union County has a smaller percentage (15.2) of its children living in poverty than the state.

Table 2-14 shows that Union County has a greater percentage of persons living below 200 percent of the federal poverty level compared to Florida, thus underscoring the high amount of financial hardship faced in this county. The Lake Butler zip code has a greater percentage (39.1 percent) of residents living below 200 percent of poverty compared to the Raiford zip code area (34.5 percent), but the Raiford zip code area has the highest percentage of persons living at less than 100 percent of poverty (15.6 percent).

Figure 2-6. Estimated persons in poverty by level of poverty, Union County and Florida, 2007.



Source: U.S. Department of Commerce, Census Bureau, Summary File 3, 2000; ESRI Business Solutions, 2007.
Prepared by: WellFlorida Council inc., 2007.

Table 2-12. Estimated persons in poverty by level of poverty, Union County and Florida, 2007.

Level of Poverty	Union County		Florida	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
< 100%	2,135	14.0	2,364,097	12.5
100%-124%	798	5.2	820,425	4.3
125%-149%	1,064	7.0	913,575	4.8
150%-174%	882	5.8	884,524	4.7
175%-184%	512	3.3	384,040	2.0
185%-199%	464	3.0	517,960	2.7
200% +	9,427	61.7	13,009,192	68.9
Total Population (2007)	15,282		18,893,813	

Note: Poverty percentages from the 2000 Census are used as poverty percentage estimates for 2007 in order to estimate the number in poverty, 2007.

Source: U.S. Department of Commerce, Census Bureau, Summary File 3, 2000; ESRI Business Solutions, 2007.

Prepared by: WellFlorida Council Inc., 2007.

Table 2-13. Estimated persons, children and households in poverty, by zip code, Union County and Florida, 2007.

Area	Individuals (All Ages)			Children (0-17)		
	Total Number	Number in Poverty	Percent in Poverty	Total Number	Number in Poverty	Percent in Poverty
32054 Lake Butler	12,116	1,721	14.2	2,617	407	15.5
32083 Raiford	3,147	490	15.6	264	45	17.2
Union Zip Codes	15,263	2,197	14.4	2,881	455	15.8
Union County	15,282	2,135	14.0	2,873	437	15.2
Florida	18,893,813	2,364,097	12.5	4,062,170	715,253	17.6
Area	Households					
	Total Number	Number in Poverty	Percent in Poverty			
32054 Lake Butler	3,383	525	15.5			
32083 Raiford	328	49	14.9			
Union Zip Codes	3,711	573	15.4			
Union County	3,719	567	15.2			
Florida	7,510,601	880,652	11.7			

Note: Poverty percentages from the 2000 Census are used to estimate the poverty percentage for 2007.

Source: U.S. Department of Commerce, Census Bureau, Summary File 3, 2000; ESRI Business Solutions, 2007.

Prepared by: WellFlorida Council Inc., 2007.

Table 2-14. Estimated persons in poverty by level of poverty, zip code, Union County and Florida, 2007.

Area	Total Number	< 100% of Poverty		100%-149% of Poverty	
		Number	Percent	Number	Percent
32054 Lake Butler	12,116	1,721	14.2	1,579	13.0
32083 Raiford	3,147	490	15.6	201	6.4
Union Zip Codes	15,263	2,197	14.4	1,850	12.1
Union County	15,282	2,135	14.0	1,862	12.2
Florida	18,893,813	2,364,097	12.5	1,734,000	9.2
Area	150%-199% of Poverty		200% + of Poverty		
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	
32054 Lake Butler	1,438	11.9	7,378	60.9	
32083 Raiford	394	12.5	2,063	65.5	
Union Zip Codes	1,824	12.0	9,391	61.5	
Union County	1,857	12.2	9,427	61.7	
Florida	1,786,524	9.5	13,009,192	68.9	

Note: Poverty percentages from the 2000 Census are used to estimate the poverty percentage for 2007.

Source: U.S. Department of Commerce, Census Bureau, Summary File 3, 2000; ESRI Business Solutions, 2007.

Prepared by: WellFlorida Council Inc., 2007.

Employment

Being employed with health benefits or being the spouse or dependent of someone whose employer provides health insurance are still the most common ways to obtain private health insurance in the United States. Unemployed individuals are thus vastly less likely to have private health insurance coverage. In addition, smaller companies and retail and service sector employers have been shown to have more difficulty in providing health insurance for their employees. For these reasons, unemployment rates and type and size of employer data for Union County is provided in this section.

As seen in Table 2-15 and Figure 2-7, the unemployment rate in Union County has been lower than the state of Florida since 2002. Like Florida and the rest of the nation, the unemployment rate in Union County has been decreasing since 2002.

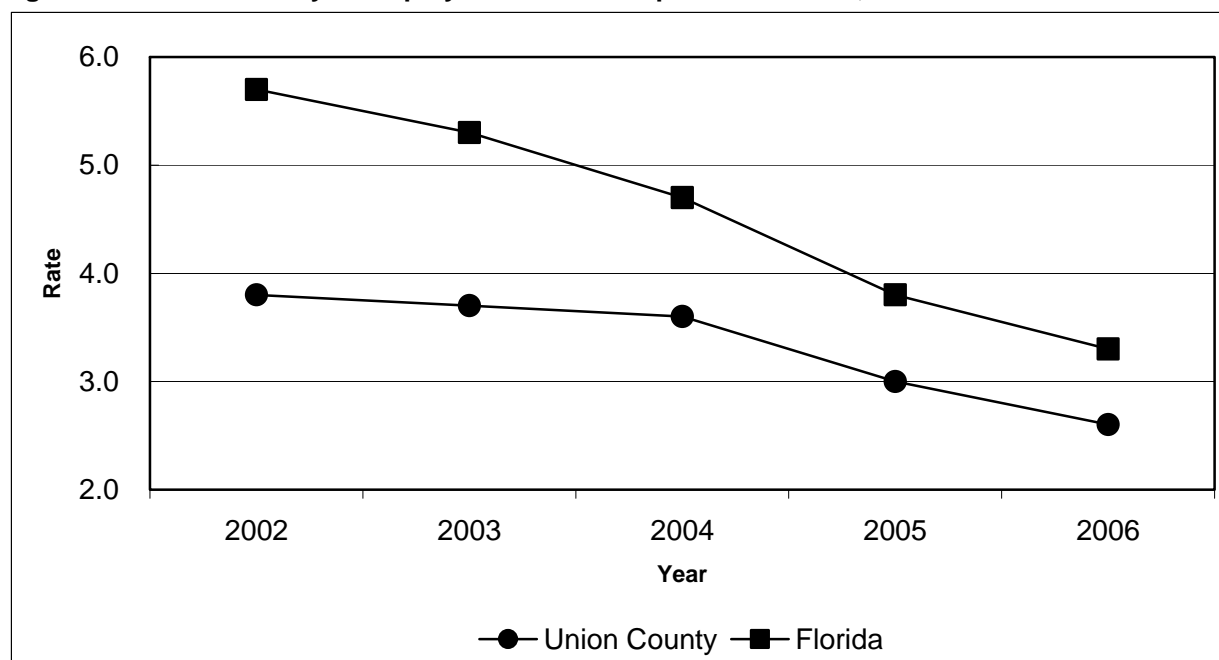
Table 2-15. Unemployment rates, Union County and Florida, 2000-2006.

Area	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006
Union	4.3	5.0	3.8	3.7	3.6	3.0	2.6
Florida	3.8	4.7	5.7	5.3	4.7	3.8	3.3

Source: Labor Market Info, Florida Research & Economic Database, accessed 8-14-07.

Prepared by: WellFlorida Council Inc., 2007.

Figure 2-7. Union County unemployment rates compared to Florida, 2002-2006.



Source: Labor Market Info, Florida Research & Economic Database, accessed 8-14-2007.

Prepared by: WellFlorida Council Inc., 2007.

Table 2-16 depicts that 93.5 percent of Union County businesses are small (defined as fewer than 20 employees) compared to 88.7 percent for Florida as a whole. In addition, Table 2-17 shows that out of the total labor force, 28.3 percent are employed in small businesses as compared to

18.9 percent for the state of Florida. Please note that 40.3 percent of employed persons in businesses greater than 20 employees were undisclosed; therefore, the total number of employees for businesses with greater than 20 employees is unknown.

Table 2-16. Number of non-governmental businesses by size of business, Union County and Florida, 2005.

Area	Total Business Establishments	Size of Business					
		Less than 20 employees		20 - 99 employees		100+ employees	
		Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Union County	138	129	93.5	6	4.3	3	2.2
Florida	504,662	447,764	88.7	46,664	9.2	10,234	2.0

Note: Data is determined from a sample of businesses; therefore data above represents a sample of all businesses in Union County. Governmental and public administration businesses are not included in the sample.

Source: U.S. Department of Commerce, Census Bureau, County Business Patterns, 2005.

Prepared by: WellFlorida Council, 2007.

Table 2-17. Number of employees in non-governmental businesses by size of business, Union County and Florida, 2002.

Area	Total Employees	Size of Business					
		Less than 20 employees		20 - 99 employees		100+ employees	
		Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Union County *	1,242	351	28.3	158	12.7	232	18.7
Florida	6,366,964	1,205,396	18.9	1,016,969	16.0	4,144,599	65.1

*The total number broken out does not sum to the total employees because there were 501 undisclosed employees in the breakouts above the less than 20 employees group.

Note: Data is determined from a sample of businesses; therefore data above represents a sample of all businesses in Union County. Governmental and public administration businesses are not included in the sample.

Source: U.S. Department of Commerce, Census Bureau, *County Business Patterns Special Report*, 2002.

Prepared by: WellFlorida Council Inc., 2007.

Table 2-18 shows that 61.6 percent of businesses in Union County are retail trade and service sector employers compared to 61.5 percent for Florida. Employees of smaller businesses in the retail trade and service sectors are workers who are the least likely to have access to or to be able to afford private healthcare insurance.

Retail trade and service sector includes the following:

- Retail sales
- Administration and support
- Waste management
- Healthcare and social assistance
- Educational services
- Arts, entertainment and recreation
- Accommodations and food services
- Other services (not including public administration or government)

Larger employers, especially those in the public administration and governmental sectors, are more likely to offer health insurance and in many instances provide a subsidy to their employees for healthcare insurance.

Table 2-18. Retail trade and service (nongovernmental) businesses, Union County and Florida, 2005.

Area	Total Businesses	Retail Trade*		Services*	
		Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Union County	138	29	21.0	56	40.6
Florida	504,662	72,469	14.4	237,635	47.1

*Data is determined from a sample of businesses; therefore data above represents a sample of all businesses in Union County.

Governmental and public administration businesses are not included in the sample.

Note: North American Industry Classification (NAIC) codes for retail trade: 44-45; services: 54-56, 61, 62, 71, 72, 81.

Source: U.S. Department of Commerce, Census Bureau, *County Business Patterns*, 2005.

Prepared by: WellFlorida Council Inc., 2007.

Educational Attainment

Today's complex healthcare systems and treatment guidelines are often difficult to navigate and understand. Generally, persons with higher educational levels utilize healthcare systems somewhat more effectively and efficiently than their counterparts without higher levels of educational attainment. In addition, research has suggested that educational level also has a bearing on health outcome.

Over 27 percent of Union County residents (age 25 and over) have no high school diploma compared to slightly more than 20 percent for Florida as a whole (Table 2-19). Nearly 30 percent of residents of the Raiford zip code area have no high school diploma. For 60 percent of Union County's residents, a high school diploma is their highest educational attainment compared to 50.5 percent for Florida residents. Only 57.6 percent of the Raiford zip code residents have a high school diploma as their highest level of educational attainment. Only 12.4 percent of Union County residents achieved a college degree compared to 29.4 percent of all Florida residents.

As seen in Table 2-20 and Figure 2-8, the high school graduation rate in Union County has been higher than the state of Florida in four of the six years reported. From 2000-2006, the drop-out rates also compared favorably to Florida with lower rates in Union County than for all of Florida. Note that graduation and drop-out rates do not add up to 100 percent due to the fact of high mobility of students in the school system. There are neither graduation nor drop-out rates available for students that leave the Union County school system.

Table 2-19. Estimated number of persons 25 and over by highest level of educational attainment, by zip code, Union County and Florida, 2007.

Area	Population 25+	No High School Diploma		High School Diploma		College Degree	
		Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
32054 Lake Butler	8,045	2,128	26.5	4,937	61.4	980	12.2
32083 Raiford	2,722	805	29.6	1,567	57.6	350	12.9
Union Zip Codes	10,767	2,936	27.3	6,500	60.4	1,331	12.4
Union County	10,774	2,966	27.5	6,469	60.0	1,338	12.4
Florida	13,150,094	2,647,933	20.1	6,642,512	50.5	3,859,649	29.4

*Note: Educational attainment percentages from the 2000 Census are used as educational attainment estimates for 2007 in order to estimate the number by level of highest level of educational attainment in 2007.

Source: U.S. Department of Commerce, Census Bureau, Summary File 3, 2000; ESRI Business Solutions, 2007.

Prepared by: WellFlorida Council Inc., 2007.

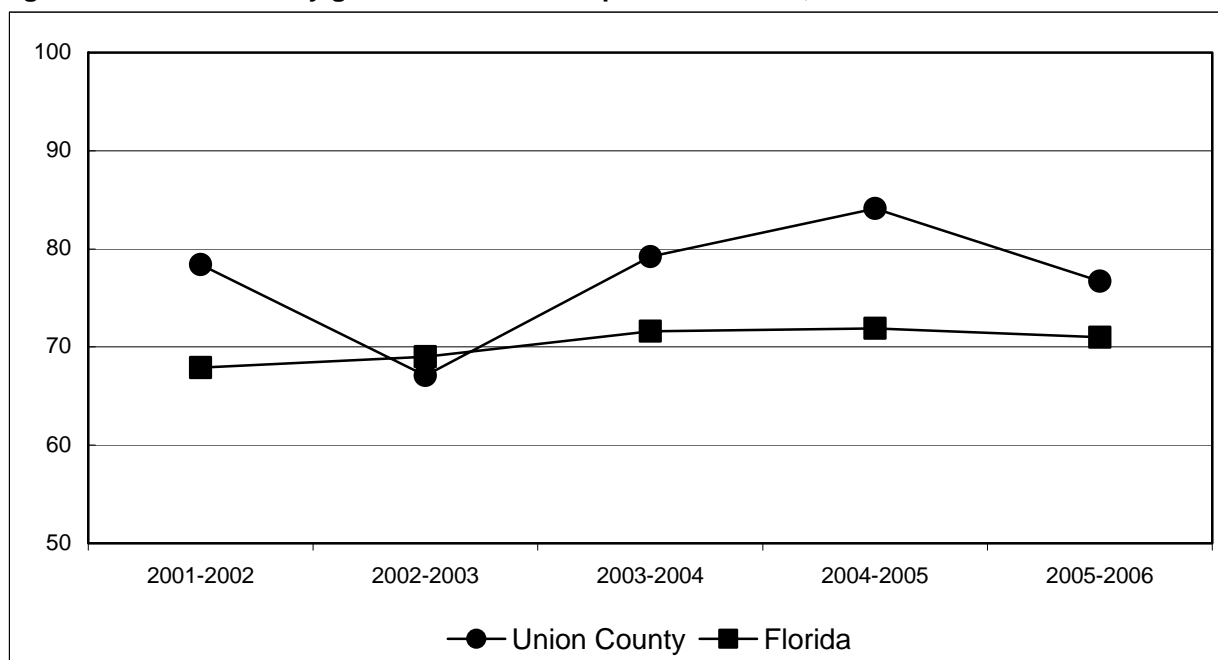
Table 2-20. Graduation and drop-out rates, Union County and Florida, 2000- 2006.

Area	School Year					
	2000-2001		2001-2002		2002-2003	
	Graduation Rate	Drop-out Rate	Graduation Rate	Drop-out Rate	Graduation Rate	Drop-out Rate
Union County	63.2	3.5	78.4	1.8	67.1	2.4
Florida	63.8	3.8	67.9	3.2	69.0	3.1
Area	School Year					
	2003-2004		2004-2005		2005-2006	
	Graduation Rate	Drop-out Rate	Graduation Rate	Drop-out Rate	Graduation Rate	Drop-out Rate
Union County	79.2	1.4	84.1	2.1	76.7	2.6
Florida	71.6	2.9	71.9	3.0	71.0	3.5

Source: Florida Department of Education, Statistical Brief, accessed 8-14-07.

Prepared by: WellFlorida Council Inc., 2007.

Figure 2-8. Union County graduation rates compared to Florida, 2001 - 2006.



Source: Florida Department of Education, Statistical Brief, 2006.
Prepared by: WellFlorida Council Inc, 2007.

Summary of Key Findings

Population

- Union County's population is 15,282. The Lake Butler zip code (32054) contains 79.4 percent of Union County's total population.
- At the end of state fiscal year 2006-2007, 4,779 inmates were housed in Union County. In 2000, the inmate population represented 30.2 percent of Union County's total population.
- Union County's population is expected to increase 27.3 percent compared to 44.5 percent for Florida by 2030.
- The 32083 (Raiford) zip code area was the fastest growing zip code from 2000 through 2007, but is expected to show a slight decrease in population through 2012. The Lake Butler zip code area population also increased from 2000-2007 and is expected to continue increasing through 2012, but at a slower rate.
- With 73.8 percent of its population between the ages of 18-64 years compared to 60.6 percent for Florida as a whole, Union County is "younger" than most counties in Florida. The high percentage of working-age adults is due to the large number of inmates housed in the county.
- Only 8.4 percent of the population of the Raiford zip code area (32083) is under the age of 18, compared to 18.8 percent of the county and 21.5 percent in the state.
- Union County has a substantially higher percentage (26.3) of black residents than Florida as a whole (15.6 percent). Again, this is due in large part to the large percentage of black inmates housed in Union County correctional facilities.

- Only 5.0 percent of Union County residents are Hispanic compared to 20.5 percent of all Florida residents.
- Males outnumber females in Union County, due in large part to the large number of male inmates housed in Union County correctional facilities.

Economic Characteristics

- Median and per capita incomes of Union County residents are substantially lower than those of all Florida residents.
- No zip code area has a median or per capita income that is higher than Florida.
- 27.1 percent of Union County households have incomes less than \$25,000 compared to 23.3 percent for the state.
- While 7.0 percent of Florida households have incomes over \$150,000, only 2.7 percent of Union County households have the same.
- 14.0 percent of Union County persons fall below the federal poverty threshold compared to 12.5 percent for the state. However, 24.3 percent of the population falls between 100 and 200 percent of the federal poverty threshold compared to only 18.5 percent for all of Florida.
- Union County has a smaller percentage (15.2 percent) of its children in poverty than the state (17.6 percent).
- Since 2002, the unemployment rate in Union County was lower than the state of Florida, though both rates have decreased from 2002 through 2006.
- Union County has a higher percentage of small businesses (fewer than 20 employees) than Florida as a whole.
- In Union County, 61.6 percent of private business establishments are retail trade and service sector employers compared to 61.5 percent for Florida

Educational Attainment

- 27.5 percent of Union County residents (age 25 and older) have no high school diploma compared to slightly more than 20 percent for Florida as a whole.
- Only 12.4 percent of Union County residents have achieved a college degree compared to 29.4 percent of all Florida residents.
- Since 2000, the high school graduation rate has been higher than the state of Florida four of six years.
- Union County's drop-out rates were lower than the state rates since 2000.

Health Status

Introduction

This section of the assessment reviews the health status of Union County residents. The primary focus of the health status assessment is to review various mortality and hospitalization data. The detailed assessment of the mortality and morbidity of Union County residents will enable the community to identify specific health indicators resulting in early death or unnecessary hospitalization and implement programs that will improve the overall health of the community.

The Health Status section will detail various mortality data, hospitalization statistics (in lieu of any other readily available morbidity data sources) and birth indicator data. An analysis of mental health status indicators including suicide rates, domestic violence rates, and Baker Act rates will also be presented in this section.

Leading Causes of Death

Average Annual Crude and Age-Adjusted Mortality Rates

Average annual crude (i.e., number of deaths) mortality rates are utilized to identify the major causes of death in the county. These rates assist providers and community leaders in healthcare delivery and policy in determining the medical service, prevention and education service needs of the community.

Age-adjusted mortality rates are used to further explore the health status of Union County residents. Age-adjusted mortality rates are used to compare across geography to account for differences in age-group distributions between populations. Age-adjusted rates are those rates that would have been observed if the age distribution of the areas being compared were the same to allow an unbiased comparison regardless of difference in age distribution. Geographies are adjusted to a “standard” population; for the purposes of this study, the standard population is the 2000 U.S population. This section will compare mortality rates for Union County, its zip codes and Florida.

The tables presented below also show crude and age-adjusted mortality rates by zip code. Careful consideration should be taken when comparing zip code rates. Populations in zip code areas vary widely. Larger zip codes generally have greater numbers of deaths. These result in more predictable and less variable rates. Smaller zip code areas generate smaller numbers of deaths and are prone to wider variation, especially among causes of death that result in very few deaths annually.

As in the demographics of Union County, the health status is impacted by nearly 4,800 inmates housed within the three correctional institutions in the county including Union Correctional Institution (UCI), Reception Medical Center (RMC) and Reception Medical Center West (RMC

West). In 2000, the U.S Census estimated that 30.2 percent of Union County total population resided in correctional institutions. The mortality rates presented in this section include the inmates housed in these facilities. It has been documented that the incidence of particular disease states are higher in inmate populations, which will impact the mortality rates. For example, according to the *Bureau of Justice Statistics Bulletin: HIV in Prisons 2004*, Florida reported the second highest number of AIDS-related deaths (20) in the nation. The report identified that the rate of confirmed AIDS is three times higher in the state and federal prison population than in the general U.S. population and that one in 18 deaths in state prisons is due to AIDS-related illnesses. Therefore, it is important to proceed with caution when making generalizations about the data presented for the general population.

Rates for All Residents

From 2001-2005, an average of 163.4 deaths occurred in Union County each year, resulting in a crude rate of 1,148.7 per 100,000 of the population (Table 3-1). In Florida during that same time period, an average of approximately 170,000 deaths occurred each year, resulting in a crude rate of 978.7 per 100,000 of the population. Zip code 32054 (Lake Butler) has an average annual crude overall mortality rate of 1350.1 per 100,000. Zip code 32083 (Raiford) has an average annual crude overall mortality rate of 581.6 per 100,000 (Table 3-2).

Cancer (350.1 per 100,000) is the leading cause of death in Union County resulting in an average of 49.8 deaths per year followed by heart disease (232.0 per 100,000) resulting in an average of 33.0 deaths per year. The average annual crude cancer mortality rate for the 32054 (Lake Butler) zip code area was 425.2 per 100,000. The average annual crude cancer mortality rate for the 32083 (Raiford) zip code area was 135.7 per 100,000 (Table 3-2).

Tables 3-1 and 3-2 also present an examination of the age-adjusted mortality rate for the 10 leading causes of death in Union County and its zip codes for 2001-2005 compared to Florida. From 2001-2005, the average annual age-adjusted mortality rate in Union County was 1,519.0 per 100,000 of the population compared to 751.8 per 100,000 of the population for the state of Florida. Figure 3-1 shows the age-adjusted rate for the top five causes of death in Union County compared to Florida. When age-adjusting the mortality rate for the top 10 leading causes of death in Union County, the rankings change. The HIV age-adjusted mortality rate dropped to number six and liver disease dropped to number seven on the top ten leading causes of death in Union County. The average annual age-adjusted mortality rate in zip code area 32054 (Lake Butler) was 2.4 times higher than the state of Florida, compared to zip code area 32083 (Raiford) which was 1.4 times higher than the state (Table 3-2).

Even when adjusting for age, Union County residents have higher average annual mortality rates than the state for all 10 of the 10 leading causes of death. Cancer (427.0 per 100,000) was the leading cause of death in Union County followed by heart disease (343.5 per 100,000). In Florida, heart disease had a higher mortality rate (205.5 per 100,000) than cancer (175.8 per 100,000). Most likely impacted by the high number of incarcerated persons in Union County, the average annual age-adjusted mortality rate for HIV and liver disease were more than 4 times higher in Union County than in Florida, 4.8 and 4.5, respectively.

When examining the zip code areas in Union County, only unintentional injuries and motor vehicle crashes in the Raiford zip code area (32083) had a lower age-adjusted mortality rate than the state of Florida as a whole. The Lake Butler zip code area (32054) had an average age-adjusted mortality rate for liver disease and HIV that was approximately six times higher than the state, 6.1 and 5.8, respectively. When comparing the zip codes in Union County, only diabetes and suicide had lower age-adjusted mortality rates in Lake Butler (32054) when compared to Raiford (32083). All other leading causes of death had higher mortality rates in Lake Butler (32054) than Raiford (32083).

Table 3.1. Average annual crude and age-adjusted mortality rates per 100,000 of the population for all races for the top 10 leading causes of death in Union County, 2001-2005.

Cause of Death	Union County			Florida		
	Average Number	Crude Rate	Age Adj Rate	Average Number	Crude Rate	Age Adj Rate
All Causes	163.4	1,148.7	1,519.0	168,305.8	978.7	751.8
Cancer (1)	49.8	350.1	427.0	39,353.6	228.9	175.8
Heart (2)	33.0	232.0	343.5	48,056.6	279.5	205.5
HIV (3)	8.2	57.6	48.2	1,706.6	9.9	10.1
Respiratory (4)	8.0	56.2	84.1	9,071.8	52.8	38.6
Stroke (5)	7.0	49.2	82.6	9,886.2	57.5	42.0
Liver (6)	6.4	45.0	47.1	2,118.4	12.3	10.5
Unintentional Injuries (7)	6.0	42.2	56.4	7,794.4	45.3	42.8
MV Crashes	3.2	22.5	26.3	3,233.2	18.8	18.6
Influenza & Pneumonia (8)	4.0	28.1	38.5	3,070.4	17.9	13.1
Diabetes (9)	3.6	25.3	38.1	4,775.2	27.8	21.2
Alzheimer's (10)	2.0	14.1	29.2	4,176.4	24.3	17.0
Suicide (10)	2.0	14.1	13.3	2,319.6	13.5	12.8

Numbers in parentheses() are the rank of that cause of death for Union County.

Age Adj Rate: Age-adjusted rates standardized to the U.S 2000 Population.

Source: State of Florida, Department of Health, Office of Vital Statistics, Public Health Statistics, 2001-2005.

Prepared by: WellFlorida Council Inc., 2007.

Table 3-2. Average annual crude and age-adjusted mortality rates per 100,000 population for all races for the top 10 leading causes of death, by zip code, Union County and Florida, 2001-2005.

Cause of Death	All Causes			Cancer (1)		
	Average Number	Crude Rate	Age Adj Rate	Average Number	Crude Rate	Age Adj Rate
32054 Lake Butler	141.6	1,350.1	1,831.9	44.6	425.2	527.2
32083 Raiford	18.0	581.6	1,033.6	4.2	135.7	249.0
Union Zip Codes	159.6	1,175.0	1,645.8	48.8	359.3	459.2
Union County	163.4	1,148.7	1,519.0	49.8	350.1	427.0
Florida	168,305.8	978.7	751.8	39,353.6	228.9	175.8
Cause of Death	Heart Disease (2)			HIV (3)		
	Average Number	Crude Rate	Age Adj Rate	Average Number	Crude Rate	Age Adj Rate
32054 Lake Butler	28.4	270.8	414.5	6.8	64.8	58.2
32083 Raiford	3.6	116.3	216.3	1.2	38.8	39.2
Union Zip Codes	107.0	294.9	233.4	8.0	58.9	50.1
Union County	33.0	232.0	343.5	8.2	57.6	48.2
Florida	48,056.6	279.5	205.5	1,706.6	9.9	10.1
Cause of Death	Respiratory Disease (4)			Stroke (5)		
	Average Number	Crude Rate	Age Adj Rate	Average Number	Crude Rate	Age Adj Rate
32054 Lake Butler	7.2	68.6	99.7	5.8	55.3	95.5
32083 Raiford	0.8	25.8	55.5	1.0	32.3	78.1
Union Zip Codes	8.0	58.9	92.6	6.8	50.1	92.1
Union County	8.0	56.2	84.1	7.0	49.2	82.6
Florida	9,071.8	52.8	38.6	9,886.2	57.5	42.0

Numbers in parentheses() are the rank of that cause of death for Union County.

Rates in trend tables and graphs may differ slightly from those displayed earlier in the section as these populations estimates come from different sources and influence the calculation of the rates.

Age Adj Rate: Age-adjusted rates standardized to the 2000 U.S Population.

Source: State of Florida, Department of Health, Office of Vital Statistics, Public Health Statistics, 2001-2005.

Prepared by: WellFlorida Council Inc., 2007.

Table 3-2 (con't). Average annual crude and age-adjusted mortality rates per 100,000 population for all races for the top 10 leading causes of death by zip code, Union County and Florida, 2001-2005.

Cause of Death	Liver Disease (6)			Unintentional Injuries (7)		
	Average Number	Crude Rate	Age Adj Rate	Average Number	Crude Rate	Age Adj Rate
32054 Lake Butler	6.2	59.1	64.0	5.4	51.5	68.2
32083 Raiford	0.2	6.5	19.5	0.2	6.5	11.5
Union Zip Codes	6.4	47.1	51.3	5.6	41.2	57.0
Union County	6.4	45.0	47.1	6.0	42.2	56.4
Florida	2,118.4	12.3	10.5	7,794.4	45.3	42.8
Cause of Death	MV Crashes			Influenza and Pneumonia (8)		
	Average Number	Crude Rate	Age Adj Rate	Average Number	Crude Rate	Age Adj Rate
32054 Lake Butler	2.6	24.8	27.8	3.4	32.4	48.1
32083 Raiford	0.2	6.5	11.5	0.6	19.4	25.7
Union Zip Codes	2.8	20.6	23.6	4.0	29.4	43.6
Union County	3.2	22.5	26.3	4.0	28.1	38.5
Florida	3,233.2	18.8	18.6	3,070.4	17.9	13.1
Cause of Death	Diabetes (9)			Alzheimer's (10)		
	Average Number	Crude Rate	Age Adj Rate	Average Number	Crude Rate	Age Adj Rate
32054 Lake Butler	2.6	24.8	39.8	1.8	17.2	37.4
32083 Raiford	0.8	25.8	42.3	0.2	6.5	19.5
Union Zip Codes	3.4	25.0	39.9	2.0	14.7	34.4
Union County	3.6	25.3	38.1	2.0	14.1	29.2
Florida	4,775.2	27.8	21.2	4,176.4	24.3	17.0
Cause of Death	Suicide (10)					
	Average Number	Crude Rate	Age Adj Rate			
32054 Lake Butler	1.2	11.4	13.1			
32083 Raiford	0.8	25.8	15.8			
Union Zip Codes	2.0	14.7	14.5			
Union County	2.0	14.1	13.3			
Florida	2,319.6	13.5	12.8			

Numbers in parentheses() are the rank of that cause of death for Union County.

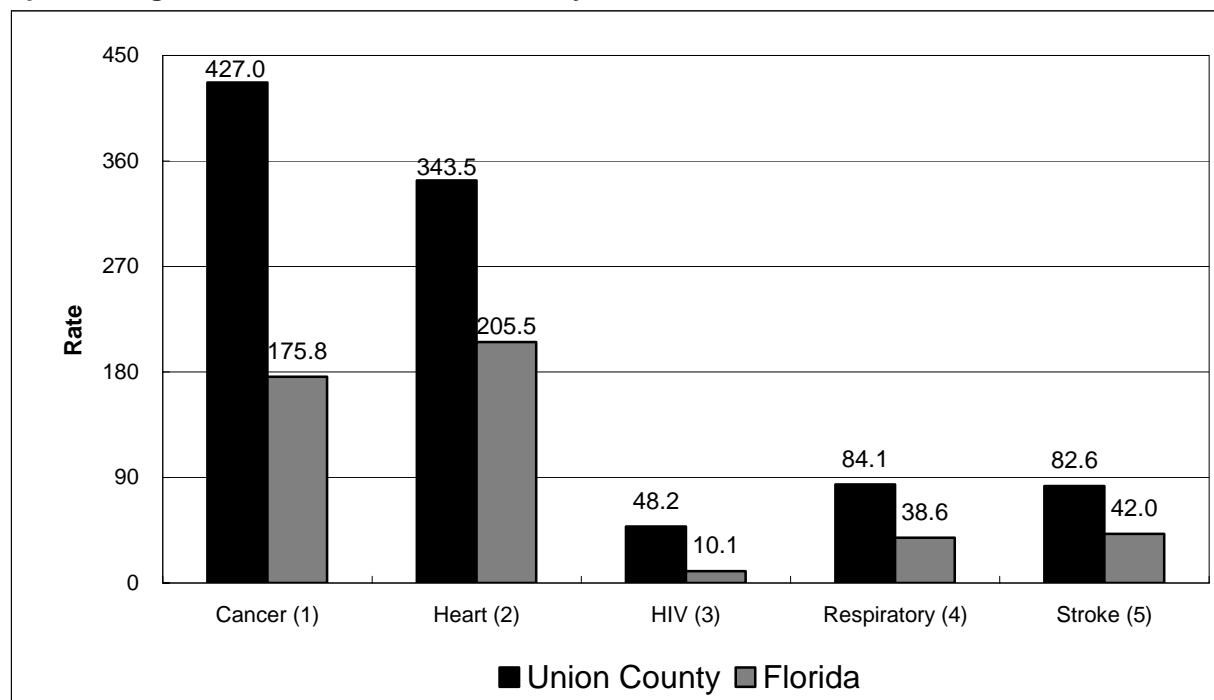
Rates in trend tables and graphs may differ slightly from those displayed earlier in the section as these populations estimates come from different sources and influence the calculation of the rates.

Age Adj Rate: Age-adjusted rates standardized to the 2000 U.S Population.

Source: State of Florida, Department of Health, Office of Vital Statistics, Public Health Statistics, 2001-2005.

Prepared by: WellFlorida Council Inc., 2007.

Figure 3-1. Average annual age-adjusted mortality rate per 100,000 population for all races for the top 5 leading causes of death in Union County and Florida, 2001-2005.



Numbers in parentheses() are the rank of that cause of death for Union County.

Age Adj Rate: Age-adjusted rates standardized to the U.S 2000 Population.

Source: State of Florida, Department of Health, Office of Vital Statistics, Public Health Statistics, 2001-2005.

Prepared by: WellFlorida Council Inc., 2007.

Race and Ethnicity

Tables 3-3 and 3-4 show the average annual crude and age-adjusted mortality rates for 2001-2005 for white and black residents, respectively.

Because white residents make up the majority of Union County's population, one would expect that they would drive the overall leading causes of death in Union County. This is not the case, respiratory and liver disease were the third and fourth leading cause of death for white residents in Union County, while HIV was the third leading cause of death and liver disease was the sixth leading cause of death for all residents in the county (Table 3-3).

As stated above, because the majority of the residents of Union County are white, one would expect the characteristics of age-adjusted mortality rates of the leading causes of death were similar to all residents. The trends in the white population's age-adjusted mortality rates mirror those for the total population. The age-adjusted mortality rates of all 10 leading causes of death for white residents in Union County were higher than the rates for the white residents of Florida (Table 3-3). Figure 3-2 demonstrates this situation for white residents for the top 5 causes of death. Most startling are the elevated rates of liver disease and HIV; as noted previously for all residents these rates are most likely impacted by the high number of incarcerated persons in Union County. Whites in Union County are 4.6 times more likely to die from liver disease and 5.2 times more likely to die from HIV than their counterparts in Florida.

Table 3-3. Average annual crude and age-adjusted mortality rate per 100,000 population for white races for the top 10 leading causes of death in Union County, 2001-2005.

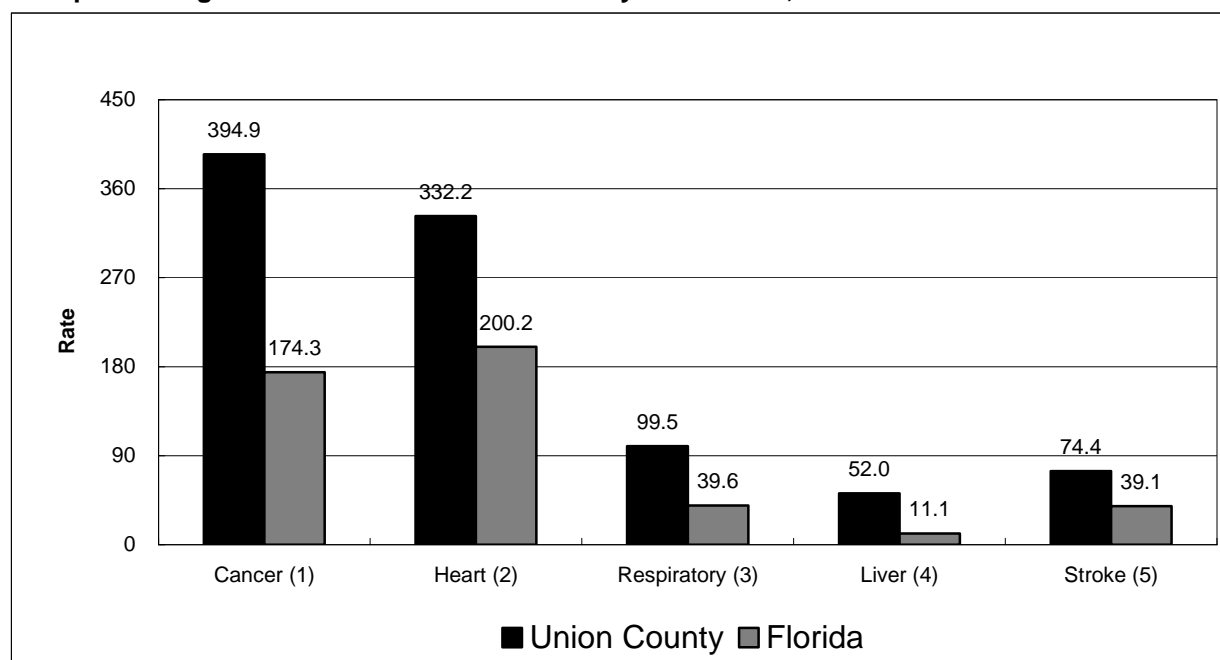
Cause of Death	Union County			Florida		
	Average Number	Crude Rate	Age Adj Rate	Average Number	Crude Rate	Age Adj Rate
All Causes	123.4	1,149.6	1,438.9	149,222.8	1,062.8	729.8
Cancer (1)	37.2	346.6	394.9	35,414.6	252.2	174.3
Heart (2)	25.4	236.6	332.2	43,346.0	308.7	200.2
Respiratory (3)	8.0	74.5	99.5	8,581.4	61.1	39.6
Liver (4)	5.6	52.2	52.0	1,949.6	13.9	11.1
Stroke (5)	5.0	46.6	74.4	8,571.6	61.0	39.1
Unintentional Injuries (6)	5.0	46.6	57.7	6,815.8	48.5	44.9
MV Crashes	3.2	29.8	33.1	2,713.0	19.3	19.1
Influenza & Pneumonia (7)	3.0	27.9	38.0	2,762.6	19.7	12.7
HIV (7)	3.0	27.9	24.1	645.6	4.6	4.6
Diabetes (9)	2.8	26.1	35.3	3,866.6	27.5	18.7
Alzheimer's (10)	1.8	16.8	30.5	3,961.6	28.2	17.2

Numbers in parentheses() are the rank of that cause of death for Union County.

Source: State of Florida, Department of Health, Office of Vital Statistics, Public Health Statistics, 2001-2005.

Prepared by: WellFlorida Council, 2007.

Figure 3-2. Average annual age-adjusted mortality rate per 100,000 population for white races for the top 5 leading causes of death in Union County and Florida, 2001-2005.



Numbers in parentheses() are the rank of that cause of death for Union County.

Age Adj Rate: Age-adjusted rates standardized to the U.S 2000 Population.

Source: State of Florida, Department of Health, Office of Vital Statistics, Public Health Statistics, 2001-2005.

Prepared by: WellFlorida Council Inc., 2007.

There are a relatively small number of black residents in Union County, though the percentage is almost twice that of the state of Florida as noted in the Demographic and Socioeconomic Profile section of this report. The relatively low numbers in the population translate to low numbers overall and even fewer deaths. These few numbers of deaths and relatively low population yield crude and age-adjusted rates that are subject to wide fluctuation on an annual basis. This could result in dramatic shifts in the leading causes of death for black residents from year to year in Union County. Attempts have been made to dampen this effect by utilizing a five-year average rate.

For black residents, the picture is somewhat different. As seen in Table 3-4, HIV is the third leading cause of death for black residents in Union County compared to the seventh for white residents. In addition, hypertension and nephritis (albeit in small numbers with one death or fewer per year on average) are among the top 10 causes for black residents while respiratory disease, suicide, Alzheimer's and liver disease are not.

Like white residents, black residents do not compare favorably to their state counterparts. The age-adjusted mortality rate from 2001-2005 was approximately 2 times higher than the age-adjusted mortality rate for Florida. From 2001-2005 the age-adjusted mortality rates for all leading causes of death for black residents were higher than the state rates. Age-adjusted mortality rates for hypertension for black Union County residents was approximately 5.4 times higher than for black residents throughout Florida (Figure 3-3). But, the age-adjusted diabetes disease death rate (49.8 per 100,000) was just slightly above the state rate (49.7 per 100,000).

Table 3-4. Average annual crude and age-adjusted mortality rate per 100,000 population for black races for the top 10 leading causes of death in Union County, 2001-2005.

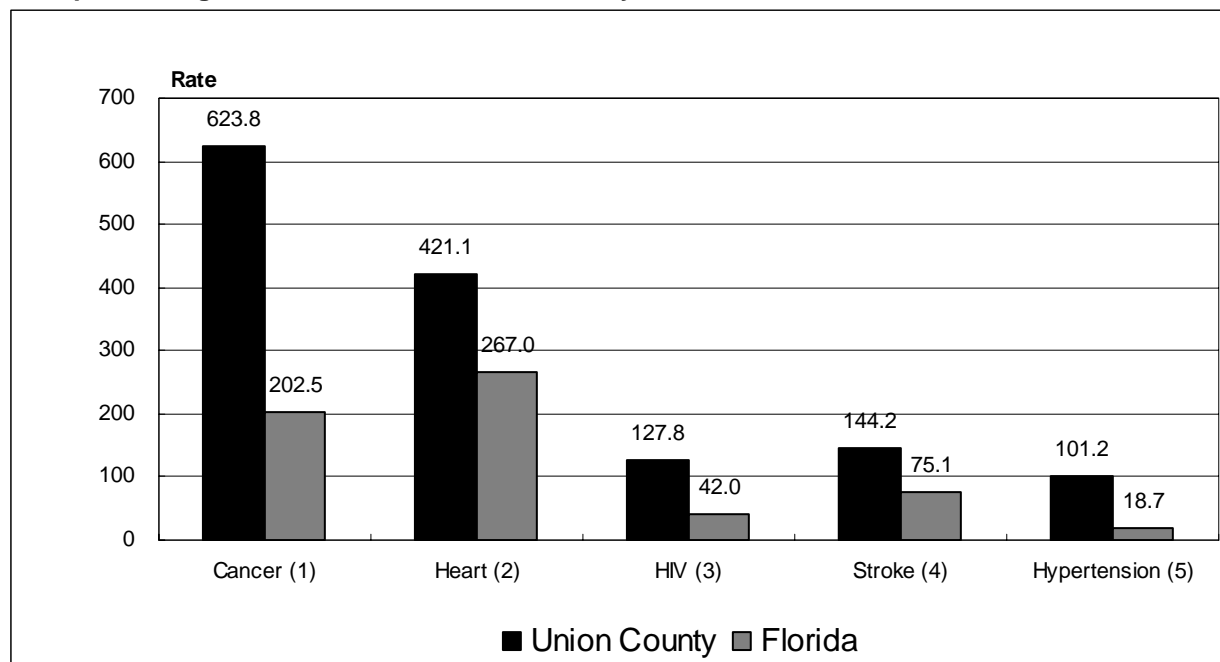
Cause of Death	Union County			Florida		
	Average Number	Crude Rate	Age Adj Rate	Average Number	Crude Rate	Age Adj Rate
All Causes	39.0	1,178.0	1,929.6	17,881.2	657.6	978.4
Cancer (1)	12.4	374.6	623.8	3,644.4	134.0	202.5
Heart (2)	7.6	229.6	421.1	4,445.2	163.5	267.0
HIV (3)	5.2	157.1	127.8	1,046.2	38.5	42.0
Stroke (4)	2.0	60.4	144.2	1,224.8	45.0	75.1
Hypertension (5)	1.2	36.2	101.2	303.6	11.2	18.7
Influenza & Pneumonia (6)	1.0	30.2	35.1	290.4	10.7	17.3
Unintentional Injuries (7)	0.8	24.2	42.1	873.8	32.1	35.7
MV Crashes	-	-	-	464.8	17.1	18.0
Diabetes (7)	0.8	24.2	49.8	860.4	31.6	49.7
Nephritis (9)	0.6	18.1	44.1	382.2	14.1	22.6
Liver (9)	0.6	18.1	20.8	153.0	5.6	7.2

Numbers in parentheses() are the rank of that cause of death for Union County.

Source: State of Florida, Department of Health, Office of Vital Statistics, Public Health Statistics, 2001-2005.

Prepared by: WellFlorida Council Inc., 2007.

Figure 3-3. Average annual age-adjusted mortality rate per 100,000 population for black races for the top 5 leading causes of death in Union County and Florida, 2001-2005.



Numbers in parentheses() are the rank of that cause of death for Union County.

Age Adj Rate: Age-adjusted rates standardized to the U.S 2000 Population.

Source: State of Florida, Department of Health, Office of Vital Statistics, Public Health Statistics, 2001-2005.

Prepared by: WellFlorida Council Inc., 2007.

Table 3-5 shows the average annual crude mortality rates for 2001-2005 for Hispanic residents. As noted above, because of the small number of Hispanic residents in Union County (as detailed in the Demographic and Socioeconomic Profile section), analysis of their crude rates should be done carefully and with perspective. Age-adjusted rates for the Hispanic population were not computed because the age-specific population needed to calculate the rate was not available during the study period (2001-2005).

Hispanic residents of Union County also have varied leading causes of death (based on average annual crude mortality rates) compared to their white and black counterparts. Table 3-5 shows that viral hepatitis was the third leading cause of death for Hispanic residents from 2001-2005; viral hepatitis did not make the top 10 leading cause of death for whites and for blacks.

Table 3-5. Average number of Hispanic deaths and crude mortality rates per 100,000 population, Union County and Florida 2001-2005.

Cause of Death	Union County		Florida	
	Average Number	Crude Rate	Average Number	Crude Rate
All Causes	5.8	1,086.1	15,646.2	510.7
Cancer (1)	2.2	412.0	3,367.0	109.9
Heart (2)	1.0	187.3	4,732.4	154.5
Viral Hepatitis (3)	0.8	149.8	77.2	2.5
HIV (3)	0.8	149.8	195.6	6.4
Liver (5)	0.6	112.4	239.4	7.8
Unintentional Injuries (6)	0.2	37.5	1,015.0	33.1
Homicide (6)	0.2	37.5	158.8	5.2

Numbers in parentheses() are the rank of that cause of death for Union County.

Source: State of Florida, Department of Health, Office of Vital Statistics, Public Health Statistics, 2001-2005

Prepared by: WellFlorida Council Inc., 2007.

Health Disparities

Figures 3-4 through 3-7 give us a glimpse at the health disparities that exist in Union County as they do throughout Florida and the United States. However, there is some good news in these numbers.

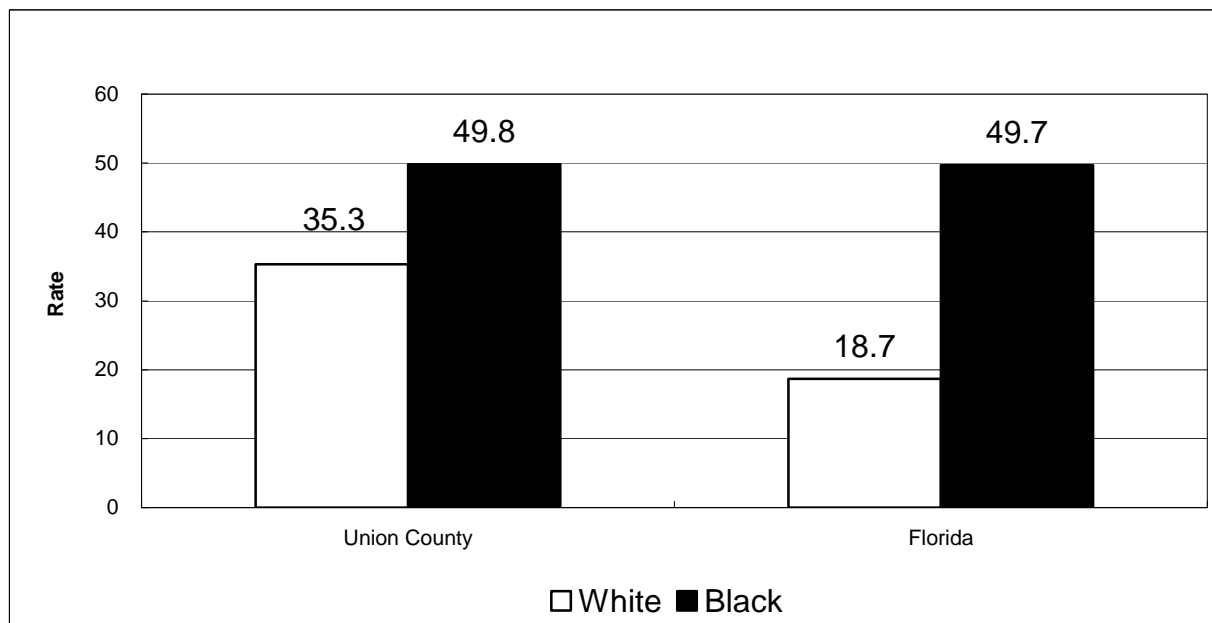
Figure 3-4 compares the age-adjusted diabetes mortality rates for white and black residents of Union County and for Florida. Typically, diabetes is one of the most disparate diseases in the United States, often with death rates of black residents at two times or more than their white counterparts. In Union County, the age-adjusted mortality rates for white and black residents were higher than the rates of their counterparts in the state. Though black residents were more likely to die from diabetes than the white residents in Union County and Florida, the disparity was less pronounced in Union County than in the state of Florida.

The age-adjusted death rates for HIV follow a similar pattern. Figure 3-5 compares the age-adjusted HIV mortality rates for white and black residents of Union County and for Florida. As discussed above, the rates for HIV mortality for whites and blacks in Union County were much higher than the HIV mortality rates for whites and blacks in Florida, potentially due to the high incidence of HIV seen in Union County's prison population. Though black residents were more likely to die from HIV than their white counterparts in Union County and Florida, the disparity was less in Union County than the state of Florida.

Figure 3-6 is most startling. Not only were the hypertension mortality rates for black residents in Union County much higher than their counterparts in the state, Figure 3-6 compares the age-adjusted hypertension mortality rates for white and black residents in Union County and for Florida. The black resident hypertension mortality rate was 32.6 times higher than the rate for whites in Union County; this disparity was much more pronounced than for Florida as a whole.

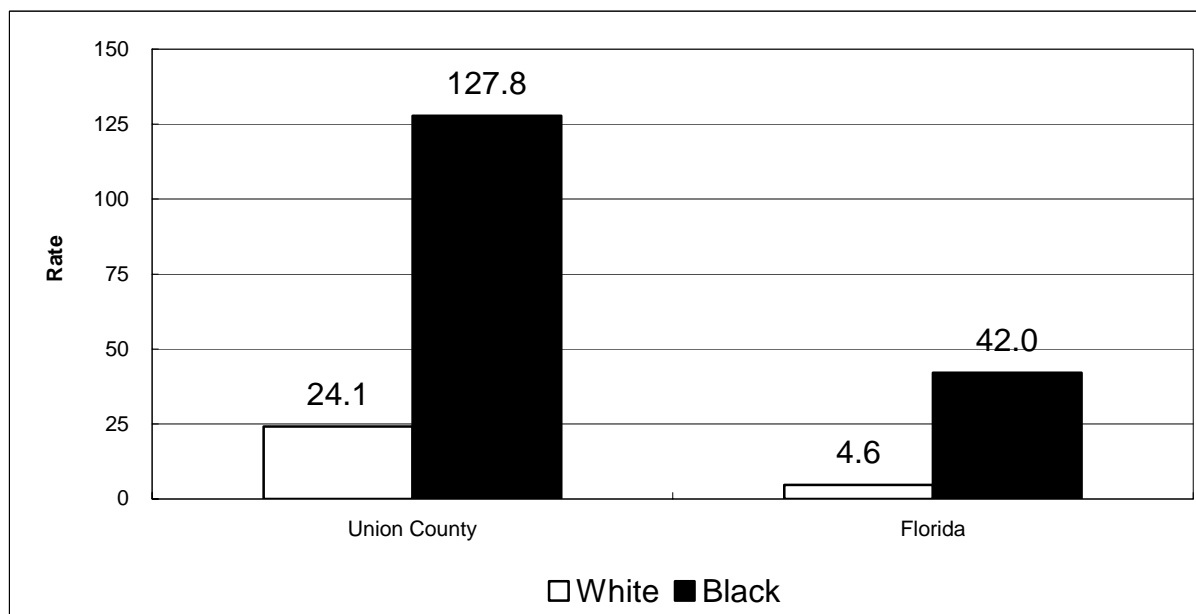
Age-adjusted death rates for nephritis follow a similar pattern (Figure 3-7). Black residents of Union County and Florida fared poorly in comparison to their white counterparts and the gap in disparity was greater in Union County than for the state.

Figure 3-4. Diabetes age-adjusted mortality rate per 100,000 population by race, Union County and Florida, 2001-2005.



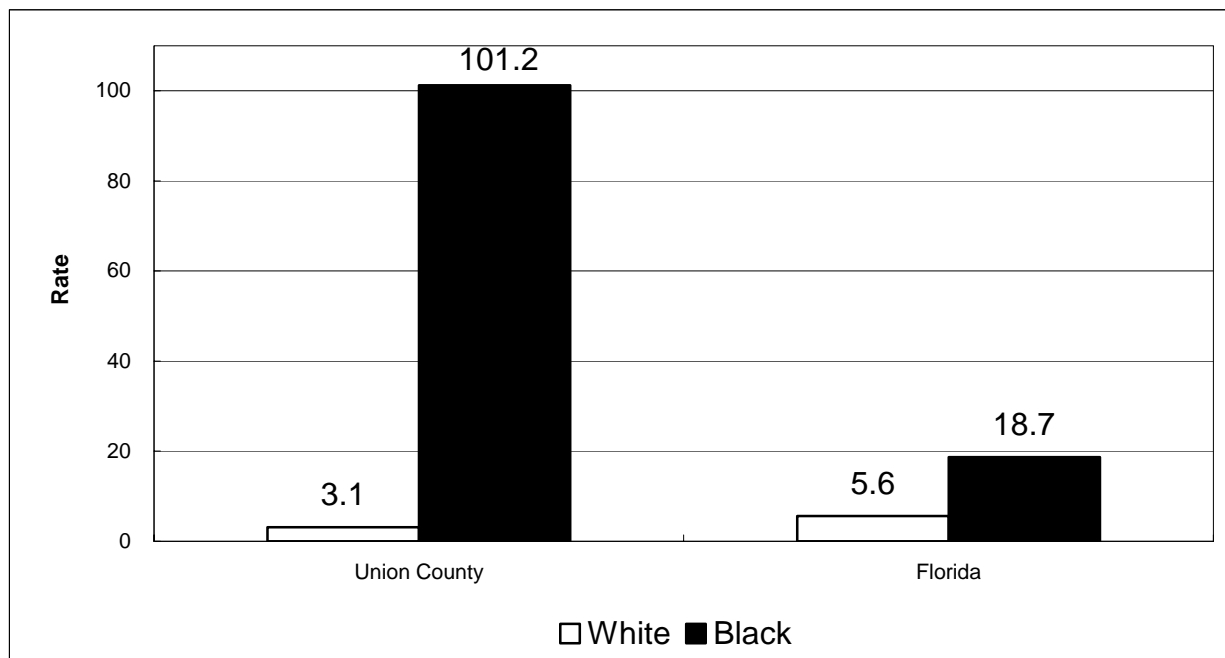
Source: State of Florida, Department of Health, Office of Vital Statistics, Public Health Statistics, 2001-2005; U.S. Department of Commerce, Bureau of the Census, 2000 Summary File 1.
Prepared by: WellFlorida Council Inc., 2007.

Figure 3-5. HIV age-adjusted mortality rate per 100,000 population by race, Union County and Florida, 2001-2005.



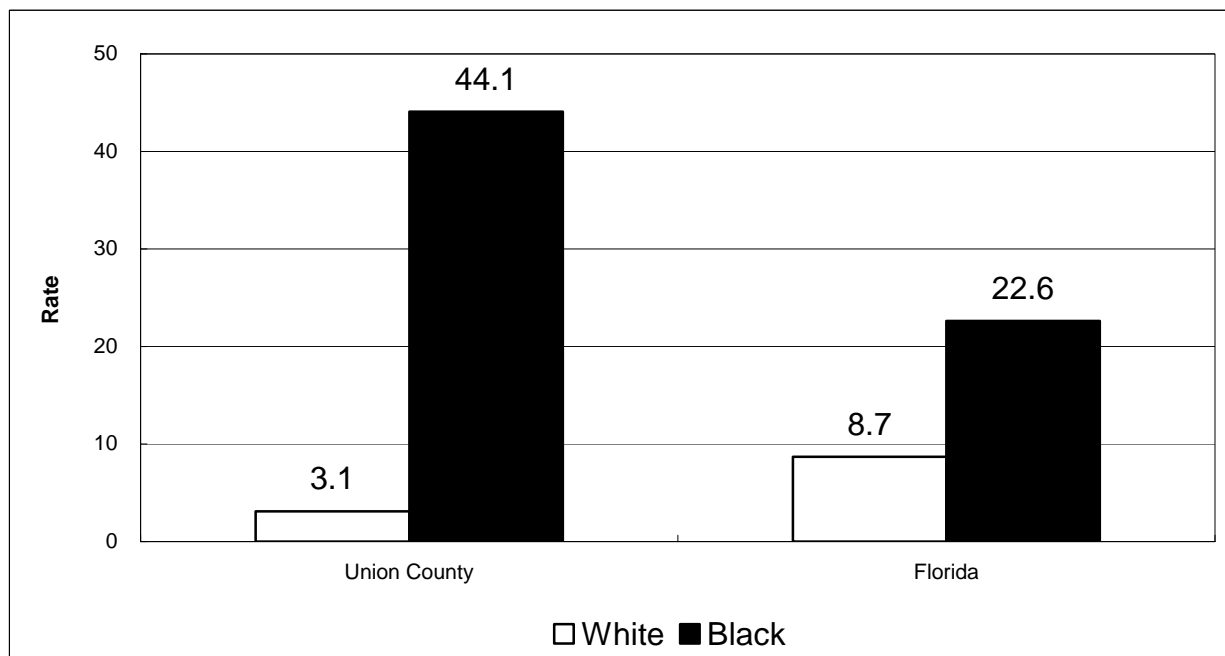
Source: State of Florida, Department of Health, Office of Vital Statistics, Public Health Statistics, 2001-2005; U.S. Department of Commerce, Bureau of the Census, 2000 Summary File 1.
Prepared by: WellFlorida Council Inc., 2007.

Figure 3-6. Hypertension age-adjusted mortality rate per 100,000 population by race, Union County and Florida, 2001-2005.



Source: State of Florida, Department of Health, Office of Vital Statistics, Public Health Statistics, 2001-2005; U.S. Department of Commerce, Bureau of the Census, 2000 Summary File 1.
Prepared by: WellFlorida Council Inc, 2007.

Figure 3-7. Nephritis age-adjusted mortality rate per 100,000 population by race Union County and Florida, 2001-2005.



Source: State of Florida, Department of Health, Office of Vital Statistics, Public Health Statistics, 2001-2005; U.S. Department of Commerce, Bureau of the Census, 2000 Summary File 1.
Prepared by: WellFlorida Council Inc., 2007.

Trends

Table 3-6 and Figures 3-8 through 3-12 detail trends since 1997 in the top 5 causes of death in Union County. The rates presented below are four-year average annual mortality rates. These few numbers of deaths and relatively low population yield age-adjusted rates that are subject to wide fluctuation on an annual basis. Four-year rates have been used here to decrease this effect. Since 1997, the age-adjusted all cause mortality rate for Florida has decreased steadily. This trend is also true for Union County until the last data time frame in which the rate increased.

As seen in Figure 3-8, Union County's age-adjusted cancer mortality rate was substantially higher than the rate for Florida. Figure 3-8 shows that since 1997 the age-adjusted cancer mortality rates for Union County have remained relatively stable, while the state rates have been steadily decreasing slightly.

As seen in Figure 3-9, Union County's age-adjusted heart disease mortality rate was also substantially higher than the rate for Florida. While the state rates have continued to slightly decrease over the last 10 years, Union County's rates have remained fairly static.

Figure 3-10 shows that mortality from HIV in Union County has decreased substantially over the past ten years, while the deaths from HIV for Florida have remained relatively stable. Even though the age-adjusted mortality rates for HIV in Union County remain much higher than for the state of Florida, this is a very positive trend for Union County.

Similar to the trend seen in HIV, the age-adjusted respiratory disease mortality rate has been decreasing in Union County, while the mortality rates have remained relatively stable in Florida (Figure 3-11). This is also an indicator that Union County is working to decrease the gap in age-adjusted mortality rates compared to the state of Florida.

The age-adjusted stroke mortality rate was higher in Union County than the state of Florida as a whole. Additionally, while the state has seen a slight downward trend in the stroke age-adjusted mortality rate over the past decade, the age-adjusted stroke mortality rates (Figure 3-12) in Union County have fluctuated over the past 10 years.

Table 3-6. Age adjusted morality rate per 100,000 population for all races for the top 5 leading causes of death in Union County, 2001-2005.

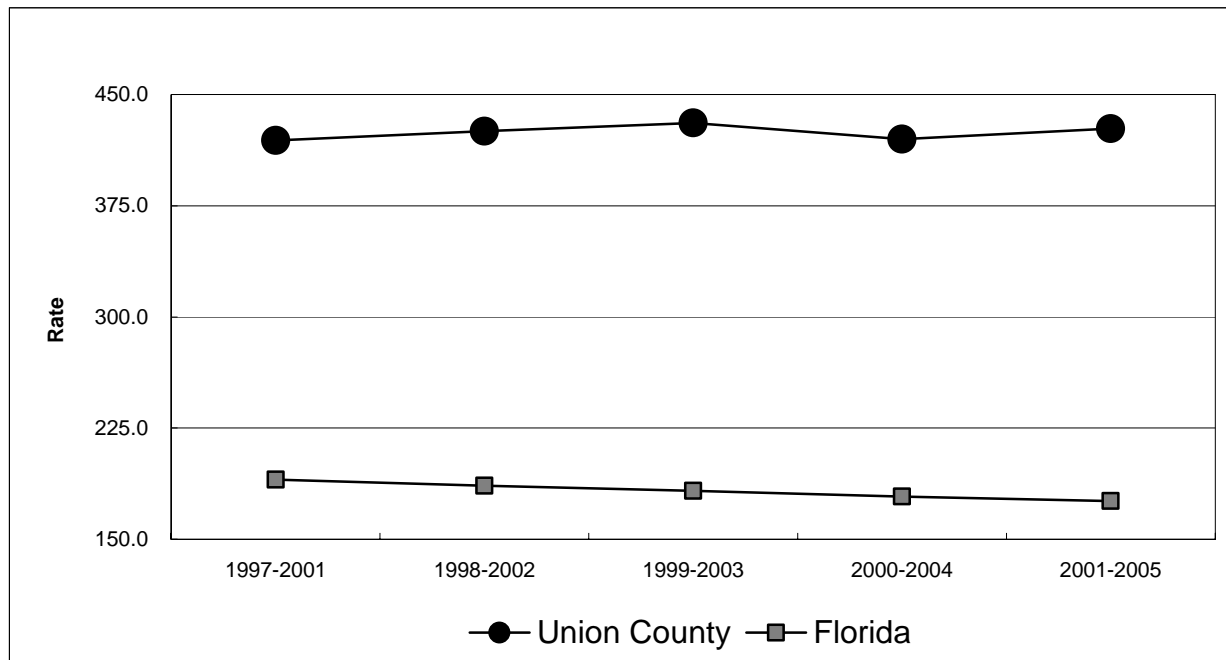
Cause of Death	1997-2001		1998-2002		1999-2003		2000-2004		2001-2005	
	Union County	Florida	Union County	Florida	Union County	Florida	Union County	Florida	Union County	Florida
All Causes	1,638.5	803.7	1,607.6	794.3	1,526.1	784.3	1,492.9	766.2	1,519.0	751.8
Cancer (1)	419.1	190.3	425.3	186.1	430.8	182.6	420.0	178.9	427.0	175.8
Heart (2)	349.4	243.6	361.0	235.8	347.2	226.9	349.1	215.3	343.5	205.5
HIV (3)	111.6	11.1	72.0	10.7	57.1	10.6	55.0	10.5	48.2	10.1
Respiratory (4)	109.7	40.7	120.0	40.5	101.9	40.2	91.9	38.9	84.1	38.6
Stroke (5)	88.9	49.3	73.6	48.1	82.4	46.6	77.4	44.2	82.6	42.0

Numbers in parentheses () are the rank of that cause of death for Union County.

Source: State of Florida, Department of Health, Office of Vital Statistics, Public Health Statistics, 1997-2005.

Prepared by: WellFlorida Council, 2007.

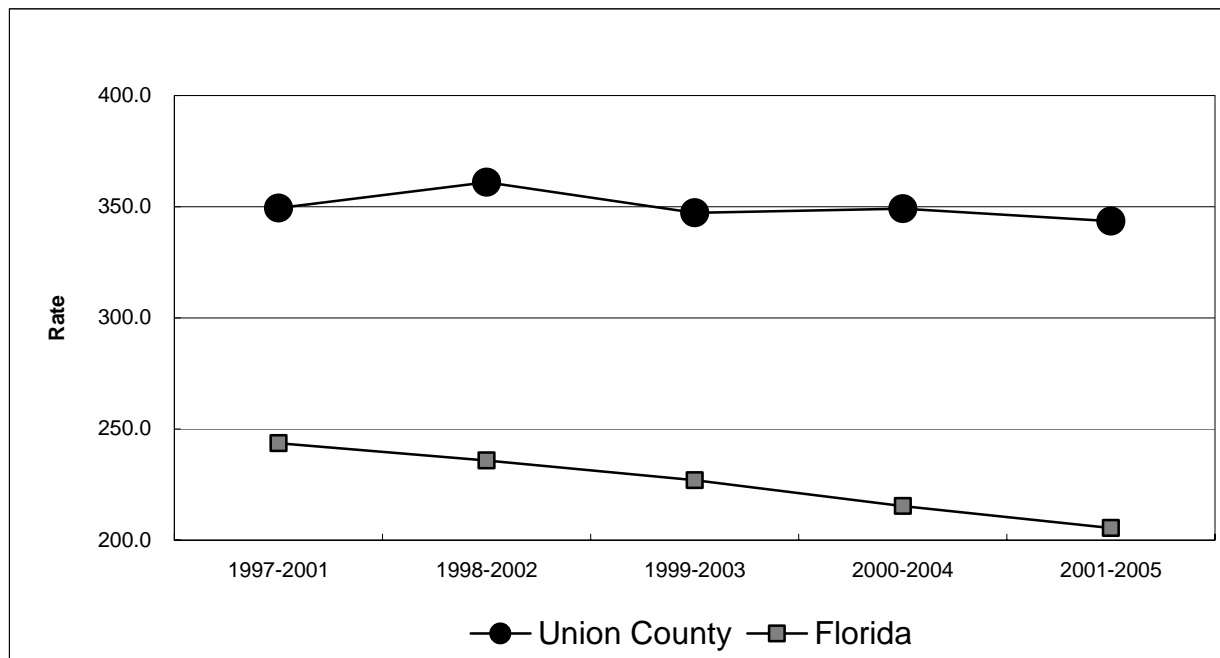
Figure 3-8. Cancer age-adjusted mortality rate per 100,000 population for all races, 1997-2005.



Source: State of Florida, Department of Health, Office of Vital Statistics, Public Health Statistics, 1997-2005.

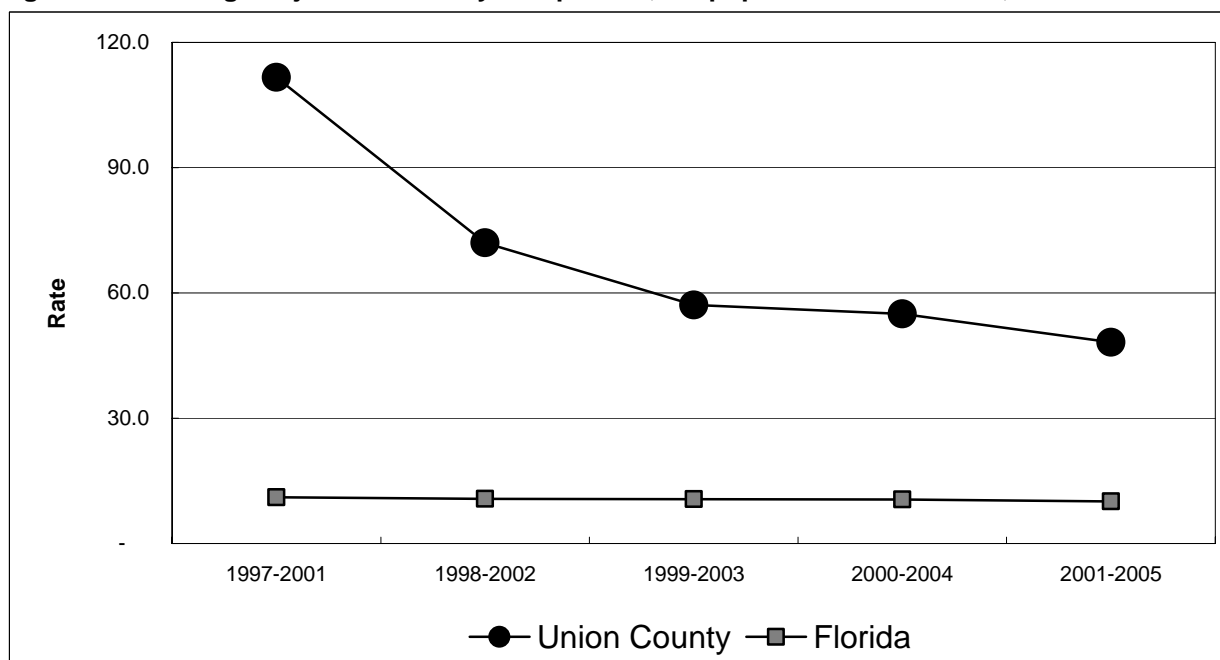
Prepared by: WellFlorida Council Inc., 2007.

Figure 3-9. Heart disease age-adjusted mortality rate per 100,000 population for all races, 1997-2005.



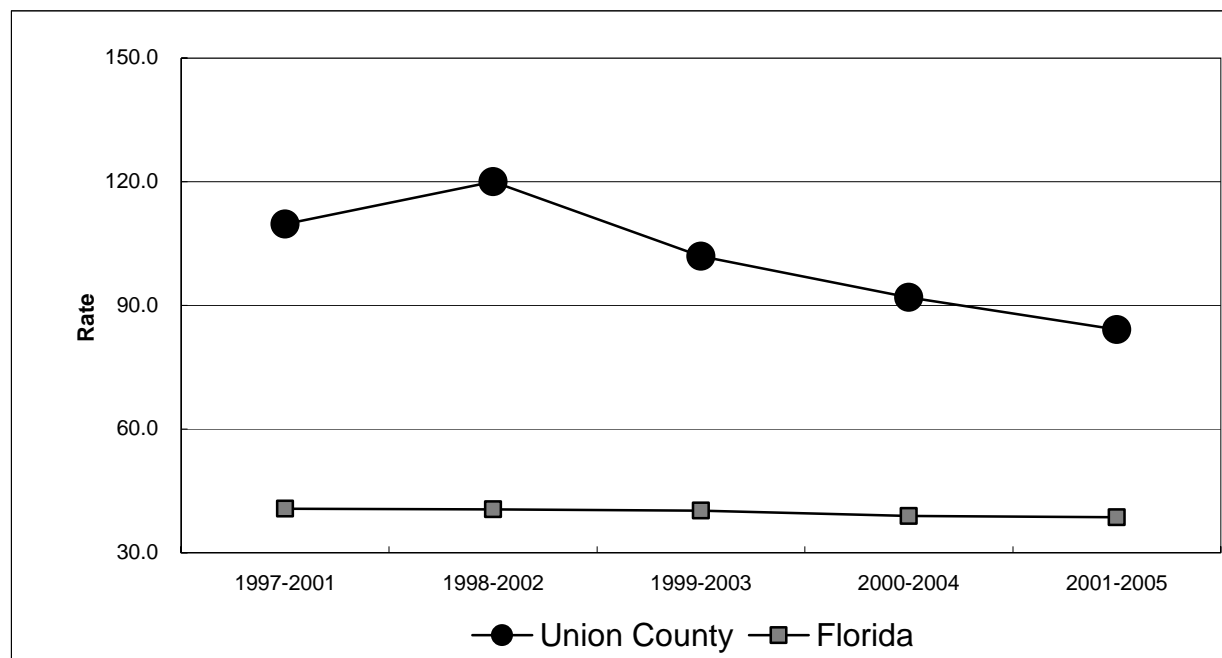
Source: State of Florida, Department of Health, Office of Vital Statistics, Public Health Statistics, 1997-2005.
Prepared by: WellFlorida Council Inc., 2007.

Figure 3-10. HIV age-adjusted mortality rate per 100,000 population for all races, 1997-2005.



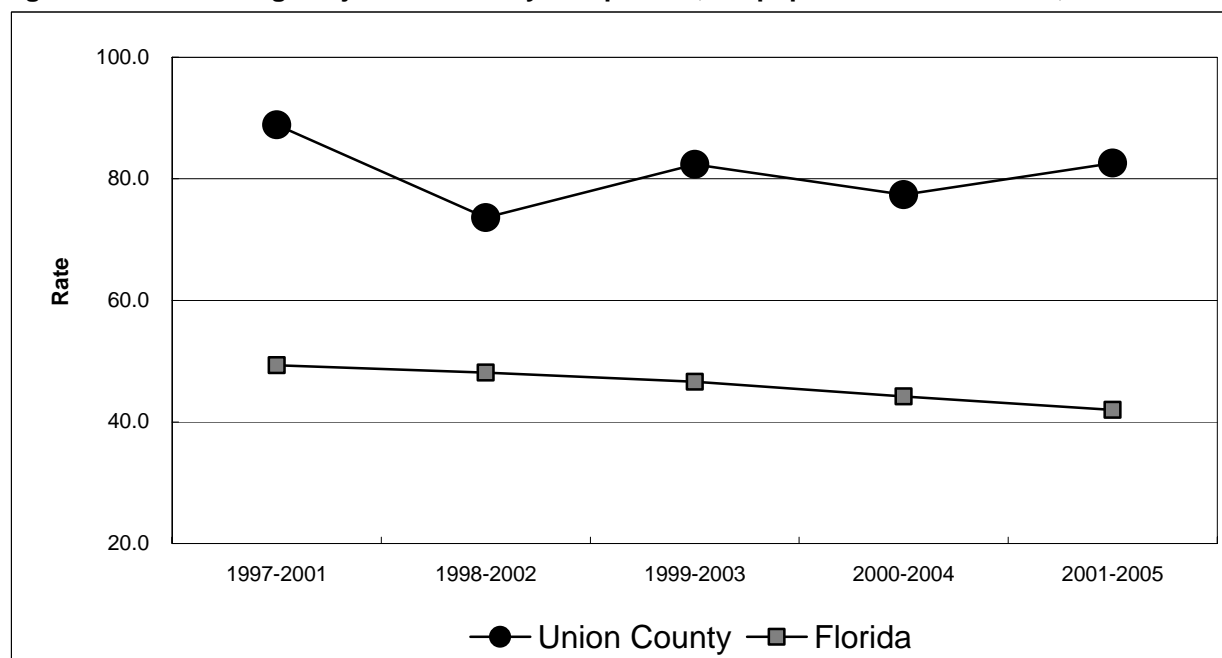
Source: State of Florida, Department of Health, Office of Vital Statistics, Public Health Statistics, 1997-2005.
Prepared by: WellFlorida Council Inc., 2007.

Figure 3-11. Respiratory disease age-adjusted mortality rate per 100,000 population for all races, 1997-2005.



Source: State of Florida, Department of Health, Office of Vital Statistics, Public Health Statistics, 1997-2005.
Prepared by: WellFlorida Council Inc., 2007.

Figure 3-12. Stroke age-adjusted mortality rate per 100,000 population for all races, 1997-2005.



Source: State of Florida, Department of Health, Office of Vital Statistics, Public Health Statistics, 1997-2005.
Prepared by: WellFlorida Council Inc., 2007.

Hospitalization

Tables 3-7, 3-8, and 3-9 provide a glimpse at the major causes of hospitalization for various populations within Union County and Florida based on diagnostic related group (DRG) codes.

Table 3-7 summarizes the top 5 causes of hospitalization for the following geographic areas:

- Lake Butler zip code (32054)
- Raiford zip code (32083)
- Union County Zip Codes Total
- Union County
- Florida

As seen in Tables 3-7 and 3-8, the leading cause of hospitalization in Union County, each of its zip codes and Florida in 2004-2006 was for being a normal newborn followed by vaginal delivery without a complicating diagnosis. From 2004-2006 there were a total of 354 normal newborns and 272 vaginal deliveries without complicating diagnoses in Union County. Esophagitis, gastroenteritis, and miscellaneous digestive disorders; chest pain; and simple pneumonia and pleurisy rounded out the top five causes of hospitalization in Union County and the Lake Butler (32054) zip code area. This was unlike the third through fifth leading causes of hospitalization in the Raiford zip code. These included simple pneumonia and pleurisy, chronic obstructive pulmonary disease and heart failure and shock. In Florida, psychoses, heart failure and shock and chest pain rounded out the top five.

Table 3-7. Top 5 leading DRGs by Zip Code, Union County and Florida, 2004-2006.

Zip Code	1st	2nd	3rd	4th	5th
32054 Lake Butler	Normal Newborn	Vaginal Delivery without complicating diagnosis	Esophagitis, Gastroenteritis and Miscellaneous Digestive Disorders, Age > 17 with CC	Chest Pain	Simple Pneumonia and Pleurisy, Age > 17 with CC
32083 Raiford	Normal Newborn	Vaginal Delivery without complicating diagnosis	Simple Pneumonia and Pleurisy, Age > 17 with CC	Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease	Heart Failure and Shock
Union Zip Codes	Normal Newborn	Vaginal Delivery without complicating diagnosis	Esophagitis, Gastroenteritis and Miscellaneous Digestive Disorders, Age > 17 with CC	Chest Pain	Simple Pneumonia and Pleurisy, Age > 17 with CC
Union County	Normal Newborn	Vaginal Delivery without complicating diagnosis	Esophagitis, Gastroenteritis and Miscellaneous Digestive Disorders, Age > 17 with CC	Chest Pain	Simple Pneumonia and Pleurisy, Age > 17 with CC
Florida	Normal Newborn	Vaginal Delivery without complicating diagnosis	Psychoses	Heart Failure and Shock	Chest Pain

Source: AHCA Detailed Discharge Data, 2004-2006.
Prepared by: WellFlorida Council Inc., 2007.

Table 3-8. Leading causes of hospitalization for Florida residents, all races, 2004-2006.

DRG	Discharges	Percent of Total
Normal Newborn (391)	459,342	6.3
Vaginal Delivery without Complicating Diagnosis (373)	352,334	4.8
Psychoses (430)	258,717	3.5
Heart Failure and Shock (127)	206,913	2.8
Chest Pain (143)	179,693	2.5
Cesarean Section without CC (371)	178,759	2.4
Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease (088)	145,754	2.0
Simple Pneumonia and Pleurisy, Age > 17 with CC (089)	135,776	1.9
Esophagitis, Gastroenteritis and Miscellaneous Digestive Disorders, Age > 17 with CC (182)	133,382	1.8
Neonate with other Significant Problems (390)	119,991	1.6
Intracranial Hemorrhage or Cerebral Infarction (014)	90,616	1.2
Major Joint and Limb Reattachment Procedures of Lower Extremity (209)	89,637	1.2
GI Hemorrhage with CC (174)	85,169	1.2
Septicemia, Age > 17 (416)	82,927	1.1
Uterine and Adnexa Procedures for Nonmalignancy without CC (359)	76,911	1.1
All Others	4,718,037	64.5
Total	7,313,958	100.0

Numbers in parentheses() are the DRG numbers.

Source: AHCA Detailed Discharge Data, CY 2004-2006.

Prepared by: WellFlorida Council Inc., 2007.

Table 3-9 summarizes the top five causes of hospitalization for the following populations in Union County (detailed data tables are available in Appendix A):

- All residents
- White residents
- Black residents
- Residents of all other races
- Hispanic residents
- Non-Hispanic residents
- Females
- Males
- Age 0-17
- Age 18-64
- Age 65 and older

As noted above, there were differences in the leading causes of hospitalization in Union County compared to Florida (Table 3-8 and Table 3-9). Most noteworthy, psychoses were the third leading cause of hospitalization in Florida, while this does not make the top ten in Union County.

Table 3-9 demonstrates a pattern that is typically not seen in much of the other health status data. Because white residents make up such a large percentage of the total population, one would expect leading causes for hospitalization among white residents to mirror the top five for all residents. This was not the case in Union County. While three of the top five leading causes of hospitalization were the same for all residents and white residents, the fourth and fifth causes of hospitalization for white residents were simple pneumonia and pleurisy and Cesarean section without complications, respectively, compared to chest pain and simple pneumonia and pleurisy for the county.

The analysis of leading causes of hospitalization yields some interesting insights. Four of the five leading causes of hospitalization for black residents and three of the five leading causes of hospitalization for male residents were different than for all residents of Union County. For black residents, normal newborn was the top reason for hospitalization as it was for all residents. The second through fifth leading causes of hospitalization from 2004-2006 included: HIV with major related condition, other circulatory system diagnosis with complications, other circulatory system operating room (O.R.) procedures and renal failure. For male residents, normal newborn was the top reason for hospitalization as it was for all residents, followed by chest pain. The third through fifth leading causes of hospitalization from 2004-2006 for male residents included: major small and large bowel procedures with complications, other circulatory O.R. procedures, and gastrointestinal hemorrhage (GI) with complications. Some of the differences seen in these populations compared to the general Union County population may be due to the high number of inmates who are black and/or male who reside in correctional facilities in the county.

For females, as expected, the top three causes of hospitalization are related to being born or giving birth including vaginal delivery without complications, normal newborn and Cesarean section.

When examining the leading cause of hospitalization for Hispanic residents of Union County, three of the top five causes were related to being born or giving birth including normal newborn, vaginal delivery without complications, and Cesarean section. Chest pain was the second leading cause of hospitalization for this population.

Of course, for children age 0-17, the overwhelmingly leading cause of hospitalization was being born (i.e., normal newborn). Four of the top five leading causes of hospitalization were related to birth and complications that may arise. However, bronchitis and asthma was the third leading cause of hospitalization for this age group.

For older adults over the age of 65, simple pneumonia and pleurisy and heart failure and shock were tied for the leading cause of hospitalization with 69 hospitalizations from 2004-2006. Chronic obstructive pulmonary disease; esophagitis, gastroenteritis, and miscellaneous digestive disorders; and renal failure rounded out the top five.

Table 3-9. Top 5 leading causes of hospitalization for various Union County resident populations, 2004-2006.

Population	1 st Cause	2 nd Cause	3 rd Cause	4 th Cause	5 th Cause
All Residents (7,753)	Normal Newborn	Vaginal Delivery without Complications	Esophagitis, Gastroenteritis and Misc. Digestive	Chest Pain	Simple Pneumonia and Pleurisy
White (4,961)	Normal Newborn	Vaginal Delivery without Complications	Esophagitis, Gastroenteritis and Misc. Digestive	Simple Pneumonia and Pleurisy	Cesarean Section without Complications
Black (1,527)	Normal Newborn	HIV with Major Related Condition	Other Circulatory System Diagnosis with Complications	Other Circulatory System O.R. Procedures	Renal Failure
Other Races (1,265)	Back and Neck Procedures except Spinal Fusion without Complications	Other Circulatory System O.R. Procedures	Other Ear, Nose, and Throat O.R. Procedures	Major Small and Large Bowel Procedures with Complications	Other Vascular Procedures with Complications without Cardiovascular Diagnosis
Hispanic (123)	Normal Newborn	Chest Pain	Vaginal Delivery without Complications	Simple Pneumonia and Pleurisy	Cesarean Section
Non-Hispanic (7,630)	Normal Newborn	Vaginal Delivery without Complications	Esophagitis, Gastroenteritis and Misc. Digestive	Chest Pain	Simple Pneumonia and Pleurisy
Females (2,920)	Vaginal Delivery without Complications	Normal Newborn	Cesarean Section	Esophagitis, Gastroenteritis and Misc. Digestive	Simple Pneumonia and Pleurisy
Males (4,832)	Normal Newborn	Chest Pain	Major Small and Large Bowel Procedures with Complications	Other Circulatory System O.R. Procedures	GI Hemorrhage with Complications
0-17 (848)	Normal Newborn	Neonate with Other Problems	Bronchitis and Asthma	Prematurity without Major Problems	Full-term Neonate with Major Problems
18-64 (5,418)	Vaginal Delivery without Complications	Chest Pain	Cesarean Section	Esophagitis, Gastroenteritis and Misc. Digestive	Major Small and Large Bowel Procedures with Complications
65+ (1,487)	Simple Pneumonia and Pleurisy	Heart Failure and Shock	Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease	Esophagitis, Gastroenteritis and Misc. Digestive	Renal Failure

Numbers in parentheses() are the total number of hospitalizations for Union County.

Source: AHCA Detailed Discharge Data, CY 2004-2006.

Prepared by: WellFlorida Council Inc., 2007.

Table 3-10 highlights the number and percent of discharges by payor source for each zip code, Union County and Florida between 2004 and 2006. It also shows the average length of hospital stay by payor source for each geographic area. Private insurance was the leading payor source by percentage for Union County and the Lake Butler zip code area. In Florida, Medicare was the leading payor source resulting in approximately 41.8 percent of all discharges. The Raiford zip code area followed this trend as well. As expected due to its older population, Medicare patients had the longest length of stay compared to other payor sources in Union County and Florida.

Also of note, Union County had lower percentages of hospital discharges paid by Medicare, Medicaid, private insurance, self-pay, or charity than the state as a whole. When examining differences across zip code areas, Raiford (32083) had a higher percentage of hospital discharges paid by Medicare, Medicaid, and private insurance than Lake Butler (32054).

Table 3-10. Number and percent of discharges by payor source, by zipcode, Union County and Florida, 2004-2006.

Payor Source	32054 Lake Butler			32083 Raiford		
	Number	Percent	Average Length of Stay	Number	Percent	Average Length of Stay
Medicare	1,274	17.8	5.7	228	37.9	5.6
Medicaid	902	12.6	3.6	105	17.4	4.5
Private Insurance	1,356	19.0	3.8	237	39.4	4.2
Self Pay	231	3.2	4.3	20	3.3	3.5
Charity	21	0.3	3.1	1	0.2	3.0
All Others	3,366	47.1	6.3	11	1.8	4.5
Total	7,150	100.0	5.3	602	100.0	4.8
Payor Source	Union County			Florida		
	Number	Percent	Average Length of Stay	Number	Percent	Average Length of Stay
Medicare	1,503	19.4	5.7	3,058,839	41.8	5.7
Medicaid	1,007	13.0	3.7	1,304,338	17.8	4.5
Private Insurance	1,593	20.5	3.9	2,144,183	29.3	3.9
Self Pay	251	3.2	4.2	420,723	5.8	3.9
Charity	22	0.3	3.1	148,065	2.0	4.6
All Others	3,377	43.6	6.3	237,810	3.3	4.9
Total	7,753	100.0	5.3	7,313,958	100.0	4.8

* Medicare and Medicare HMO are grouped together. Medicaid and Medicaid HMO are grouped together. Private Insurance includes commercial insurance, commercial HMO and commercial PPOs. All Others include Workers Comp, Champus, VA, Other State/Local Government, Other, KidCare and unknown.

Source: AHCA Detailed Discharge Data Tapes, 2004-2006.

Prepared by: WellFlorida Council Inc., 2007.

Avoidable Hospitalizations

The Institute of Medicine (IOM) defines access as the “timely use of personal health services to achieve the best possible outcome.” This definition suggests that an evaluation of effective utilization and access must include consideration of indicators of health status or health outcomes. In order to determine appropriate and effective utilization of hospital services and availability of primary care, a methodology has been developed to analyze hospital discharge data for (non-elderly) residents to determine the level of hospitalization for certain illnesses susceptible to primary care intervention.

The methodology is based on a study of the impact of the socioeconomic status on hospital use in New York the results of which were released in 1993. In that study, specific diseases from the International Classification of Disease (ICD) codes were selected and proven in research to be reflective of the efficiency and effectiveness of access to the healthcare delivery system in the region. These diseases were called ambulatory care sensitive (ACS) because they had been shown to be avoidable in many cases if timely and appropriate ambulatory and primary care is available and utilized.

In 2006, there were over 18 avoidable hospitalizations per 1,000 population in Union County (Table 3-11). This rate was higher than the avoidable hospitalizations for the state as a whole (13.5 per 1,000).

Table 3-11. Union County residents 0-64 years of age avoidable rate and total hospitalization rate per 1,000 population compared to Florida, calendar years 2004-2006.

Region	2004		2005		2006	
	Avoidable	Total	Avoidable	Total	Avoidable	Total
Union County	19.7	160.1	21.9	172.8	18.5	183.0
Florida	15.7	136.5	16.1	135.8	13.5	133.5

Avoidable rates are based on 0-64 years of age, total rates are based on total population.

Source: AHCA Detailed Discharge Data, 2004-2006; CHARTS accessed 10-15-07.

Prepared by: WellFlorida Council Inc., 2007.

Table 3-12 and Figure 3-13 break out the avoidable hospitalizations by payor or insurance status. Oftentimes, the self-pay/charity and Medicaid populations demonstrate a disproportionately high number of avoidable hospitalizations since timely access can be a questionable proposition for these groups. However, in Union County, this is not the case.

The percentage of self pay/charity and Medicaid avoidable hospitalizations in Union County was lower compared to the state of Florida. Union County also had a lower percentage of avoidable hospitalizations for Medicare and private insurance than Florida (as a percentage of overall avoidable hospitalizations).

Table 3-12. Union County residents, 0-64 years of age who had an avoidable hospitalization by payor source compared to Florida, calendar year 2006.

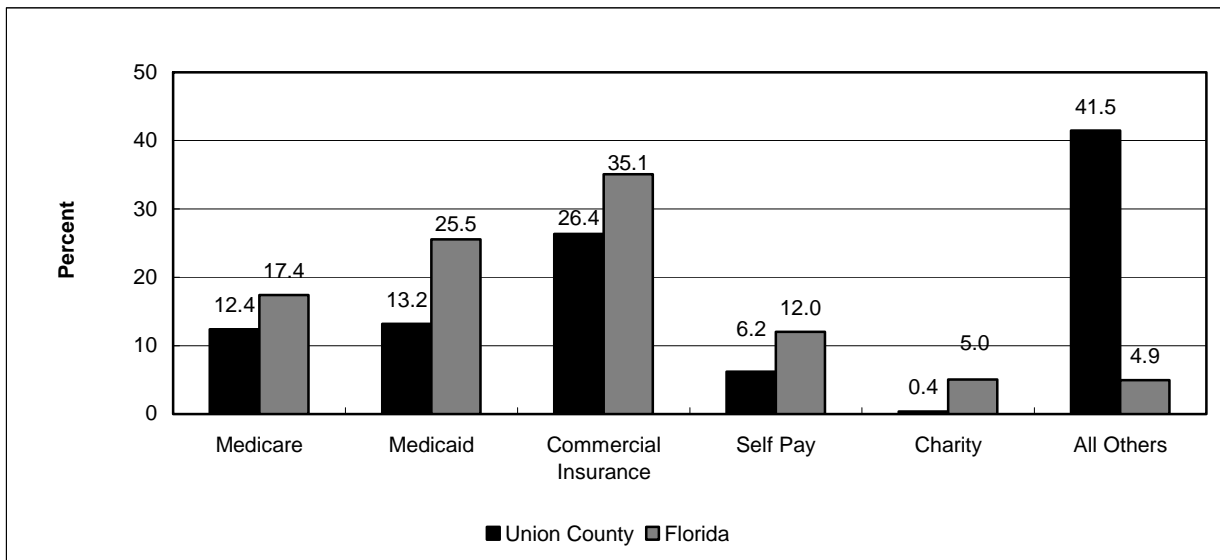
Payor	Union County			
	Discharges	Percent of Discharges	Patient Days	Total Charges
Medicare	32	12.4	165	\$812,189
Medicaid	34	13.2	121	\$450,563
Commercial Insurance	68	26.4	378	\$2,354,293
Self Pay	16	6.2	51	\$191,115
Charity	1	0.4	2	\$4,157
All Others	107	41.5	790	\$5,493,261
Total	258	258.0	1,507	9,305,578
	Florida			
	Discharges	Percent of Discharges	Patient Days	Total Charges
Medicare	35,808	17.4	207,868	\$1,135,520,571
Medicaid	52,603	25.5	245,773	\$1,232,502,175
Commercial Insurance	72,226	35.1	304,693	\$1,788,578,002
Self Pay	24,818	12.0	99,715	\$543,840,073
Charity	10,374	5.0	45,495	\$239,243,672
All Others	10,145	4.9	47,496	\$259,632,687
Total	205,974	100.0	951,040	\$5,199,317,180

All Others include: Workers Comp, Champus, VA, Other State/Local Government, Other and KidCare.

Source: AHCA Detailed Discharge Data Tapes, 2006.

Prepared by: WellFlorida Council Inc., 2007.

Figure 3-13. Percent of avoidable hospitalizations by payor source for residents (age 0-64), Union County and Florida, 2006.



Source: AHCA Detailed Discharge Data, 2006.

Prepared by: WellFlorida Council Inc, 2007.

In total, there were 276 avoidable hospitalizations in 2006. As seen in Table 3-13, the overwhelmingly leading cause for avoidable hospitalization is dehydration/volume depletion accounting for just over 34 percent of all avoidable hospitalizations.

Table 3-13. Top 10 avoidable hospitalizations for 0-64 years of age in Union County, 2006.

Avoidable Hospitalization	Number	Percent of Total
Dehydration - Volume Depletion (1)	94	34.1
Cellulitis (2)	40	14.5
Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease (3)	23	8.3
Asthma (4)	21	7.6
Convulsions "B" (5)	18	6.5
Congestive Heart Failure (6)	14	5.1
Gastroenteritis (6)	14	5.1
Hypertension (8)	9	3.3
Skin Grafts With Cellulitis (9)	8	2.9
Kidney/Urinary Infection (9)	8	2.9
All Others	27	9.8
Total	276	100.0

Source: AHCA Detailed Discharge Data, 2006.
Prepared by: WellFlorida Council Inc, 2007.

Birth Indicators

Birth outcome indicators are a critical measure of a society's and a community's health status. Unfortunately, Florida's birth outcome indicators in the last decade have consistently ranked in the bottom half of the nation according to the *National Kids Count Data Book* prepared by the Annie E. Casey Foundation.

Overall, these rankings remain poor for Florida but progress has been made. Progress has also been seen in these indicators in Union County, though work remains to be done, especially in the disparity of outcomes between races and ethnicities.

Birth Rates

Table 3-14 shows that between 1997-2005, Union County's birth rate was lower than the state as a whole. This is to be expected in a county with a small percentage of female residents due to the high number of male inmates housed in correctional facilities. Unlike the trend we see in Florida, the birth rates of black residents were lower than that of white residents. Additionally, the birth rates of white residents in Union County were higher than the rates for their counterparts throughout the state. Figure 3-14 shows that birth rates in Union County have remained somewhat steady and consistently below Florida's rates over the past decade.

Table 3-15 shows that the Hispanic birth rates in Union County have also remained relatively stable and much lower than the state rates over the past decade. As noted above, because of the small number of Hispanic residents in Union County (as detailed in the Demographic and

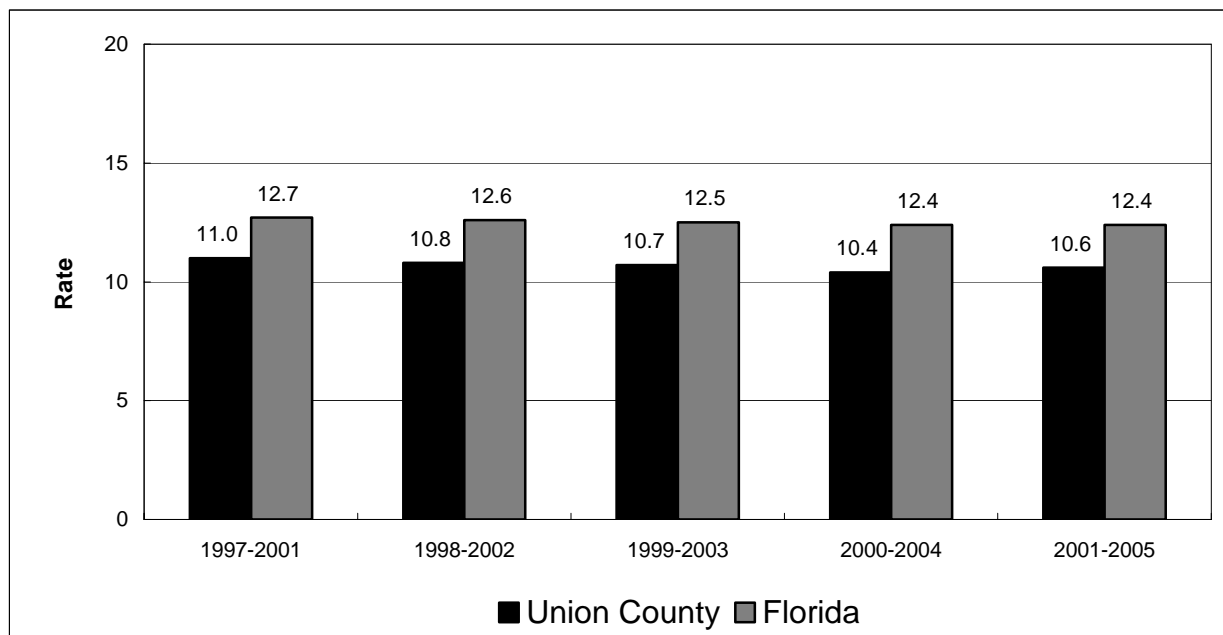
Socioeconomic Profile section), analysis of their birth rates should be done carefully and with perspective.

Table 3-14. Birth rates per 1,000 population, by race, Union County and Florida, 1997-2005.

Area	All Races									
	1997-2001		1998-2002		1999-2003		2000-2004		2001-2005	
	Number	Rate	Number	Rate	Number	Rate	Number	Rate	Number	Rate
Union County	730	11.0	730	10.8	728	10.7	720	10.4	753	10.6
Florida	994,661	12.7	1,007,937	12.6	1,024,616	12.5	1,045,603	12.4	1,067,751	12.4
Area	White Races									
	1997-2001		1998-2002		1999-2003		2000-2004		2001-2005	
	Number	Rate	Number	Rate	Number	Rate	Number	Rate	Number	Rate
Union County	617	12.3	619	12.2	624	12.1	625	11.9	657	12.2
Florida	737,702	11.4	746,062	11.3	757,596	11.3	771,345	11.2	622,135	8.9
Area	Black Races									
	1997-2001		1998-2002		1999-2003		2000-2004		2001-2005	
	Number	Rate	Number	Rate	Number	Rate	Number	Rate	Number	Rate
Union County	110	7.1	109	6.9	101	6.4	91	5.6	91	5.5
Florida	227,164	18.8	229,807	18.5	232,607	18.2	234,562	17.9	235,262	17.3

Source: State of Florida, Department of Health, Office of Vital Statistics, 1997-2005.
Prepared by: WellFlorida Council Inc., 2007.

Figure 3-14. Birth rates per 1,000 total population for all races, Union County and Florida, 1997-2005.



Source: State of Florida, Department of Health, Office of Vital Statistics, 1997-2005.
Prepared by: WellFlorida Council Inc., 2007.

Table 3-15. Hispanic birth rates per 1,000 population, Union County and Florida, 1997-2005.

Area	1997-2001		1998-2002		1999-2003		2000-2004		2001-2005	
	Number	Rate	Number	Rate	Number	Rate	Number	Rate	Number	Rate
Union County	15	0.2	13	0.2	14	0.2	21	0.3	24	0.3
Florida	213,799	2.7	228,069	2.8	243,402	3	260,448	3.1	278,365	3.2

Source: State of Florida, Department of Health, Office of Vital Statistics, 1997-2005.

Prepared by: WellFlorida Council Inc., 2007.

Early Access to Prenatal Care

During the 1990s, Florida experienced several improvements on measures that reflect the status of maternal and child health, including reductions in births to mothers who regularly smoked, repeat births to teenagers and births to women who received late or not prenatal care. The proportion of births to mothers who received late or no prenatal care was cut in half from 7.0 percent in 1990 to 3.5 percent in 1998. During this time, substantial gains were also made in the percentage of mothers who received early access to prenatal care (defined as care in their first trimester).

Table 3-16 shows that approximately 79.7 percent of births in Union County between 2001-2005 had early access to prenatal care. This was slightly higher than the 79.3 percent for all Florida births, but the percentages have decreased since 1997. Early access to prenatal care was disparately higher for white residents than for black residents from 2001-2005, and both white residents and black residents fared worse than their counterparts throughout Florida. Figure 3-15 shows that early access to prenatal care has been declining slightly in Union County over the last decade. This trend is consistent with Florida as a whole since 1997.

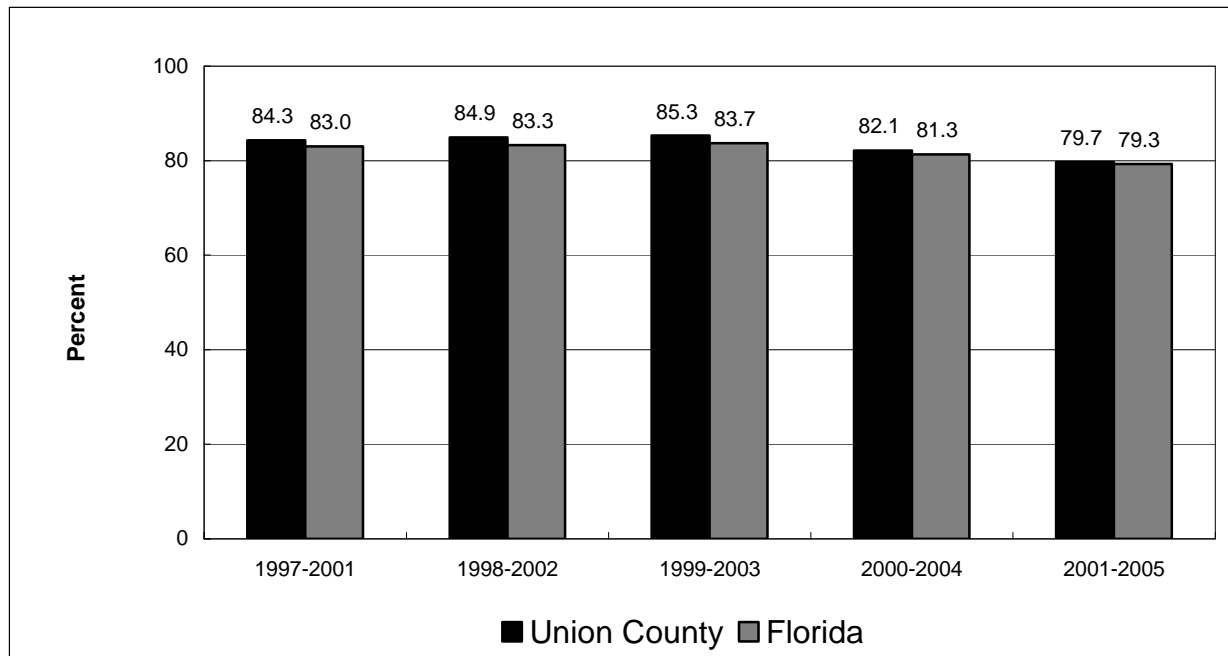
This is not the case for Hispanic mothers in Union County. Table 3-17 and Figure 3-16 show that Hispanic mothers in Union County have substantially lower rates of access to early prenatal care than for Hispanic mothers throughout Florida. Additionally, early access to prenatal care has been declining for Hispanic mothers in Union County since 1999.

Table 3-16. Percent of births with early access to care by race, Union County and Florida, 1997-2005.

Area	All Races									
	1997-2001		1998-2002		1999-2003		2000-2004		2001-2005	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Union County	615	84.3	620	84.9	621	85.3	591	82.1	600	79.7
Florida	825,719	83.0	839,620	83.3	857,515	83.7	850,600	81.3	840,057	79.3
Area	White Races									
	1997-2001		1998-2002		1999-2003		2000-2004		2001-2005	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Union County	527	85.4	536	86.6	541	86.7	526	84.2	538	81.9
Florida	637,361	86.4	645,536	86.5	657,001	86.7	649,954	84.3	521,164	83.8
Area	Black Races									
	1997-2001		1998-2002		1999-2003		2000-2004		2001-2005	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Union County	85	77.3	82	75.2	77	76.2	61	67.0	58	63.7
Florida	164,140	72.3	168,045	73.1	172,377	74.1	169,648	72.3	135,536	72.3

Source: State of Florida, Department of Health, Office of Vital Statistics, 1997-2005.

Prepared by: WellFlorida Council Inc., 2007.

Figure 3-15. Percent of births with early access to care all races, Union County and Florida, 2001-2005.

Source: State of Florida, Department of Health, Office of Vital Statistics, 2001-2005.

Prepared by: WellFlorida Council Inc., 2007.

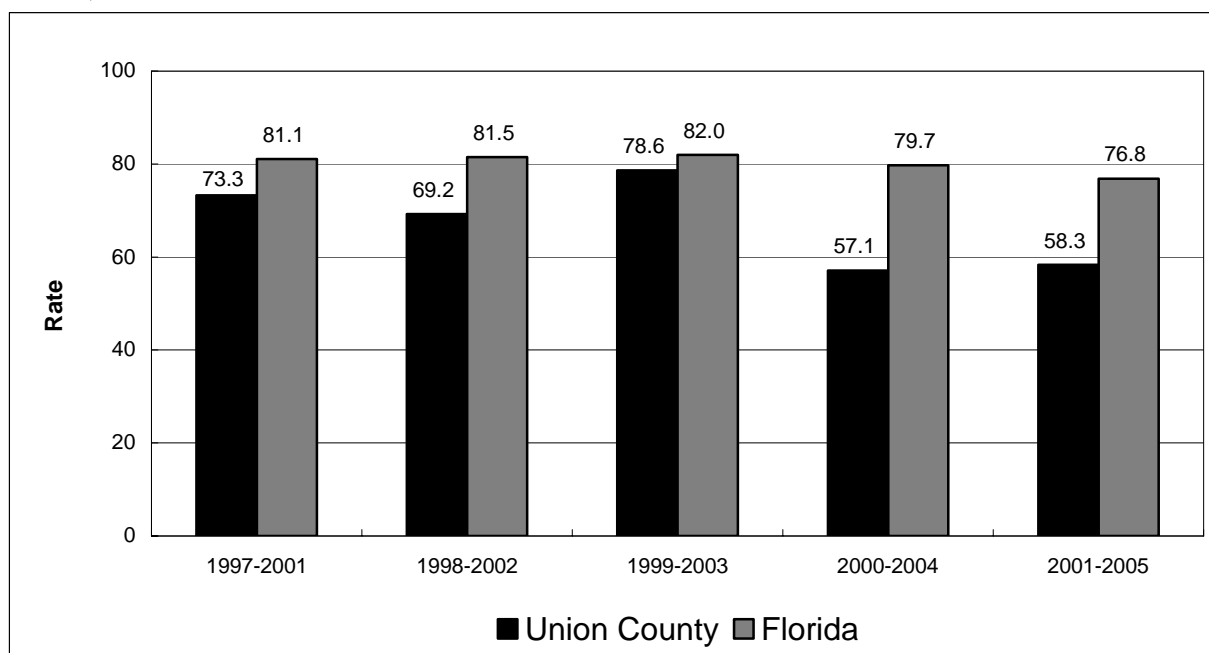
Table 3-17. Percent of Hispanic births with early access to care, Union County and Florida, 1997-2005.

Area	1997-2001		1998-2002		1999-2003		2000-2004		2001-2005	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Union County	11	73.3	9	69.2	11	78.6	12	57.1	14	58.3
Florida	173,312	81.1	185,878	81.5	199,567	82.0	207,503	79.7	213,667	76.8

Source: State of Florida, Department of Health, Office of Vital Statistics, 1997-2005.

Prepared by: WellFlorida Council Inc., 2007.

Figure 3-16. Percent of Hispanic moms with early access to prenatal care, Union County and Florida, 1997-2005.



Source: State of Florida, Department of Health, Office of Vital Statistics, 1997-2005.

Prepared by: WellFlorida Council Inc., 2007.

Low Birthweight

An infant may be born small for gestational age, early, or a combination of the two. A low birthweight infant is defined as weighing less than 2,500 grams (5 pounds 8 ounces) at birth. Low birthweight babies may face serious health problems as newborns, are at increased risk for long-term disabilities and may require adaptive care throughout their lifespan.

Table 3-18 shows that 74.4 babies per 1,000 live births annually in Union County between 2001-2005 were low birthweight. This was lower than the 84.9 low birthweight births per 1,000 Florida live births. Unfortunately, the low birthweight rate for black residents was more than twice that of white residents in Union County. The low birthweight rate for black residents in Union County was also higher than the rate for their counterparts throughout the state.

Figure 3-17 shows that although low birthweight rates fluctuated in Union County during the last decade, they have increased overall since 1997. However, Union County rates remains lower than the state.

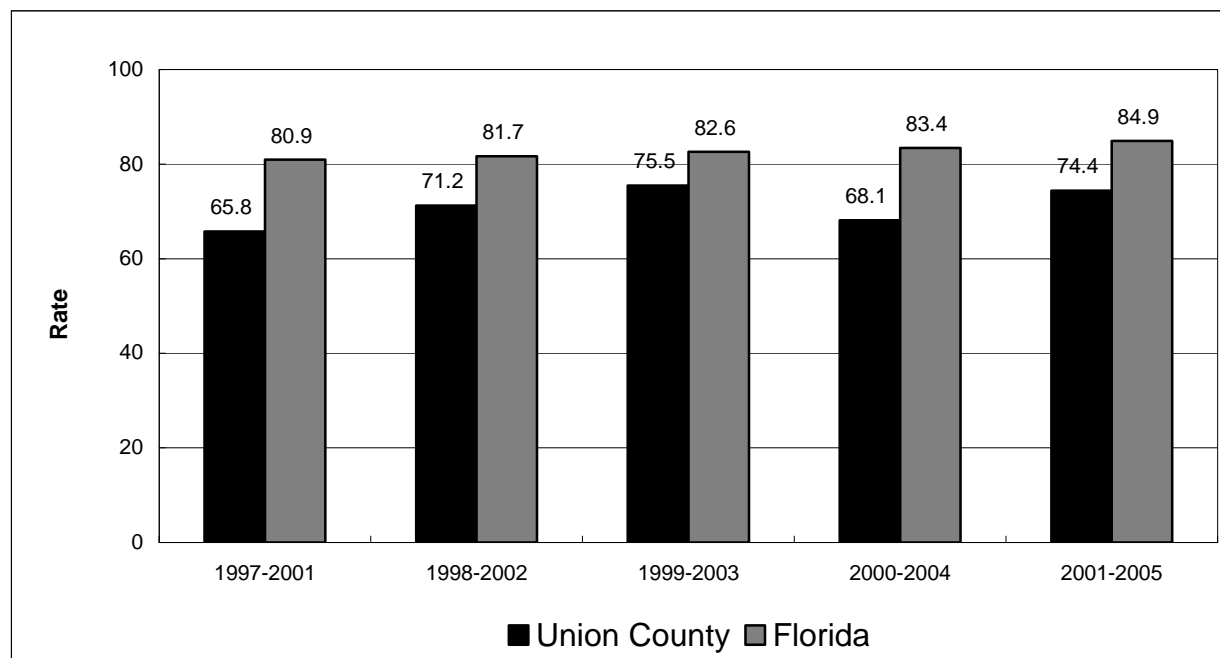
Table 3-19 and Figure 3-18 show that Hispanic low birthweight rates have remained higher than the state average, but have changed considerably from year to year. This inconsistency could potentially be due to the small number of Hispanic births in the county, so generalizations should be made cautiously.

Table 3-18. Low birthweight rates per 1,000 live births by race, Union County and Florida, 1997-2005.

Area	All Races									
	1997-2001		1998-2002		1999-2003		2000-2004		2001-2005	
	Number	Rate	Number	Rate	Number	Rate	Number	Rate	Number	Rate
Union County	48	65.8	52	71.2	55	75.5	49	68.1	56	74.4
Florida	80,480	80.9	82,369	81.7	84,619	82.6	87,163	83.4	90,681	84.9
Area	White Races									
	1997-2001		1998-2002		1999-2003		2000-2004		2001-2005	
	Number	Rate	Number	Rate	Number	Rate	Number	Rate	Number	Rate
Union County	36	58.3	37	59.8	40	64.1	37	59.2	43	65.4
Florida	50,014	67.8	51,135	68.5	52,385	69.1	53,839	69.8	56,163	90.3
Area	Black Races									
	1997-2001		1998-2002		1999-2003		2000-2004		2001-2005	
	Number	Rate	Number	Rate	Number	Rate	Number	Rate	Number	Rate
Union County	12	109.1	15	137.6	15	148.5	12	131.9	13	142.9
Florida	28,015	123.3	28,571	124.3	29,342	126.1	29,955	127.7	30,636	130.2

Source: State of Florida, Department of Health, Office of Vital Statistics, 1997-2005.
Prepared by: WellFlorida Council Inc., 2007.

Figure 3-17. Low birthweight rates per 1,000 live births for all races, Union County and Florida, 1997-2005.



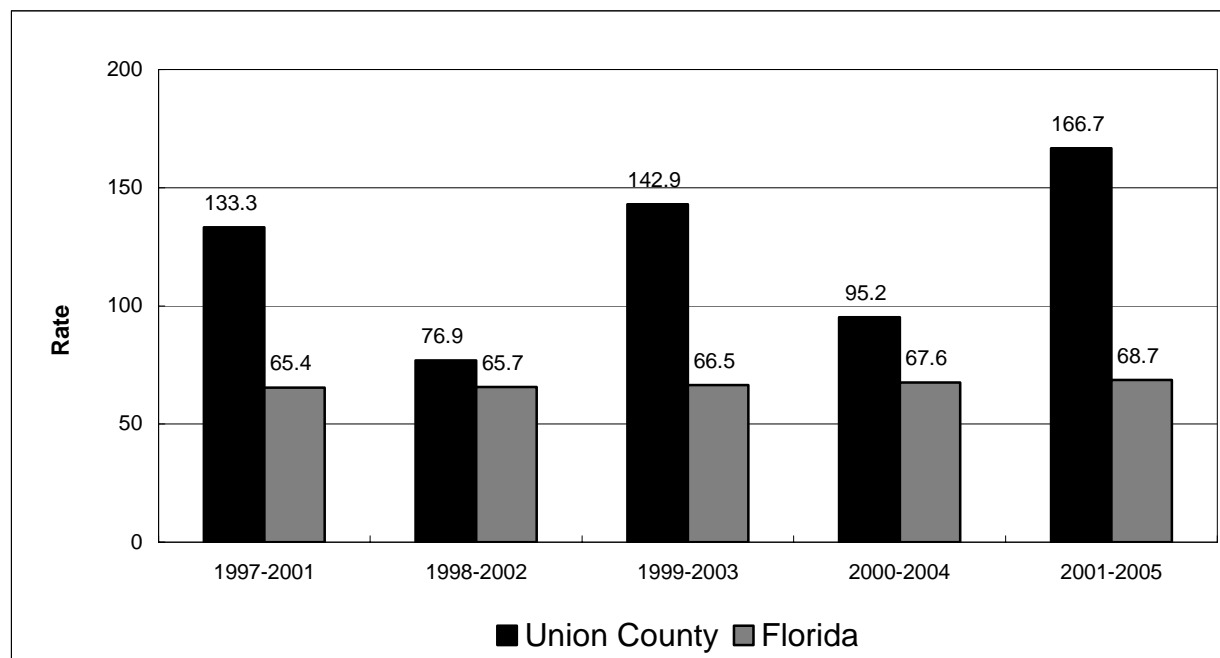
Source: State of Florida, Department of Health, Office of Vital Statistics, Public Health Statistics, 1997-2005.
Prepared by: WellFlorida Council Inc., 2007.

Table 3-19. Hispanic births with low birthweight rates per 1,000 live births, by Union County and Florida, 1997-2005.

Area	1997-2001		1998-2002		1999-2003		2000-2004		2001-2005	
	Number	Rate	Number	Rate	Number	Rate	Number	Rate	Number	Rate
Union County	2	133.3	1	76.9	2	142.9	2	95.2	4	166.7
Florida	13,980	65.4	14,975	65.7	16,188	66.5	17,616	67.6	19,118	68.7

Source: State of Florida, Department of Health, Office of Vital Statistics, 1997-2005.
Prepared by: WellFlorida Council Inc., 2007.

Figure 3-18. Hispanic low birthweight rates per 1,000 live births Union County and Florida, 1997-2005.



Source: State of Florida, Department of Health, Office of Vital Statistics, 1997-2005.
Prepared by: WellFlorida Council Inc., 2007.

Infant Mortality

Infant mortality is a useful indicator of health status and is used to compare the health and well-being of populations across and within countries. Infant mortality is defined as the number of deaths to infants less than one year per 1,000 live births.

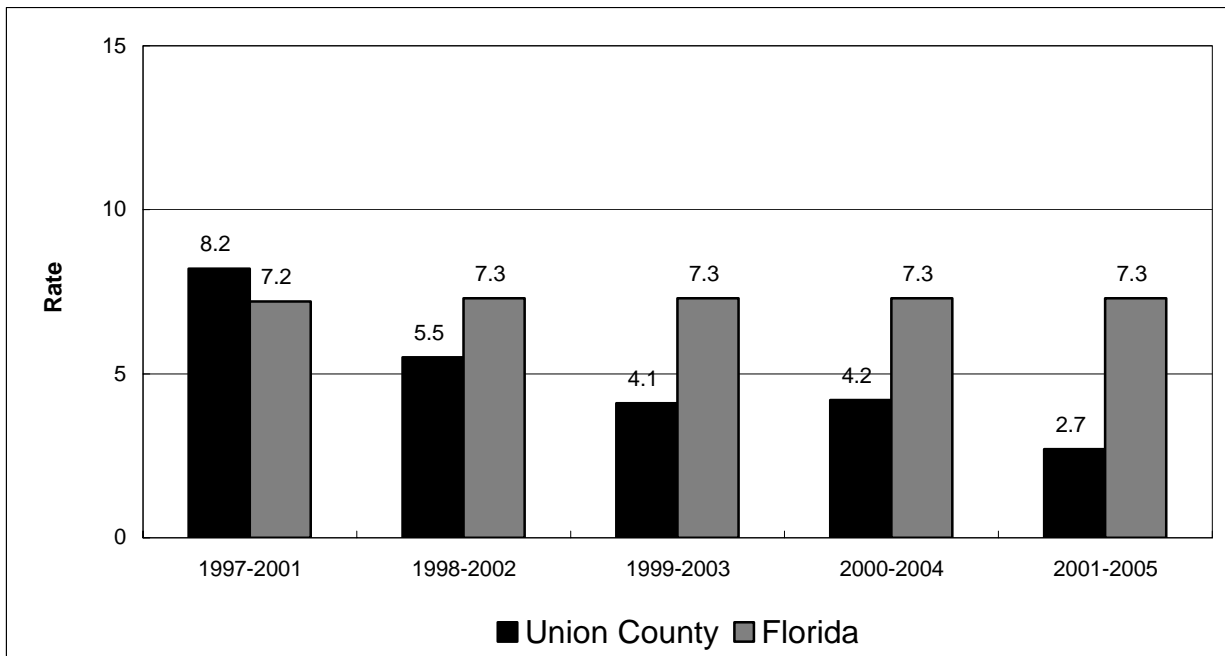
Table 3-20 shows that there were 2.7 deaths per 1,000 live births in Union County between 2001-2005. This was much lower than the Florida infant mortality rate of the same time period. There were only 2 infant deaths during this time period; therefore, the rates are highly sensitive and should be viewed cautiously. The infant mortality rate for white residents of Union County between 2001-2005 was 3.0 deaths per 1,000 live births compared to 7.1 deaths per 1,000 live births in Florida. There were no infant deaths for black or Hispanic residents (Table 3-21) during this time period. However, the infant mortality rate for black residents was about 1.8 times higher than white residents throughout the state of Florida. Figure 3-19 shows that infant mortality has been steadily decreasing in Union County over the last decade, and that the rates in the county remain substantially lower than the state rates.

Table 3-20. Infant mortality rates per 1,000 live births by race, Union County and Florida, 1997-2005.

Area	All Races									
	1997-2001		1998-2002		1999-2003		2000-2004		2001-2005	
	Number	Rate	Number	Rate	Number	Rate	Number	Rate	Number	Rate
Union County	6	8.2	4	5.5	3	4.1	3	4.2	2	2.7
Florida	7,133	7.2	7,323	7.3	7,492	7.3	7,586	7.3	7,789	7.3
Area	White Races									
	1997-2001		1998-2002		1999-2003		2000-2004		2001-2005	
	Number	Rate	Number	Rate	Number	Rate	Number	Rate	Number	Rate
Union County	5	8.1	4	6.5	3	4.8	3	4.8	2	3.0
Florida	4,119	5.6	4,206	5.6	4,263	5.6	4,324	5.6	4,396	7.1
Area	Black Races									
	1997-2001		1998-2002		1999-2003		2000-2004		2001-2005	
	Number	Rate	Number	Rate	Number	Rate	Number	Rate	Number	Rate
Union County	1	9.1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Florida	2,916	12.8	3,011	13.1	3,110	13.4	3,126	13.3	3,184	13.5

Source: State of Florida, Department of Health, Office of Vital Statistics, 1997-2005.
Prepared by: WellFlorida Council, 2007.

Figure 3-18. Infant mortality rates per 1,000 live births, Union County and Florida, 1997-2005.



Source: State of Florida, Department of Health, Office of Vital Statistics, 2001-2005.
Prepared by: WellFlorida Council Inc., 2007.

Table 3-21. Hispanic infant deaths rates per 1,000 live births, Union County and Florida, 1997-2005.

Area	1997-2001		1998-2002		1999-2003		2000-2004		2001-2005	
	Number	Rate	Number	Rate	Number	Rate	Number	Rate	Number	Rate
Union County	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Florida	1,038	4.9	1,108	4.9	1,189	4.9	1,225	4.7	1,376	4.9

Source: State of Florida, Department of Health, Office of Vital Statistics, 1997-2005.

Prepared by: WellFlorida Council Inc., 2007.

Teen Births and Repeat Births

Teens are often unprepared for the realities of childbirth. This lack of preparation often translates into poor health for the child if the teen does not have an adequate support structure to assist with raising and caring for the child. As such, teen birth rates are also an excellent indicator or marker for a healthy community. In general, the lower the teen birth rate, the “healthier” a community will be.

Table 3-22 shows that teen birth rates (defined as births to females age 15-17 per 1,000 females age 15-17 in the population) were higher in Union County between 2001-2005 than in Florida. The black teen birth rate was nearly triple that for white teens in Union County, and both black and whites have higher teen birth rates than their counterparts for the entire state. Figure 3-20 shows that although decreasing since 1997, the teen birth rate was higher in Union County than for the state.

Table 3-23 shows the teen birth rate for Hispanic female residents. As with the other birth indicators in this section because there are so few Hispanic births, the rates are very unstable and unreliable.

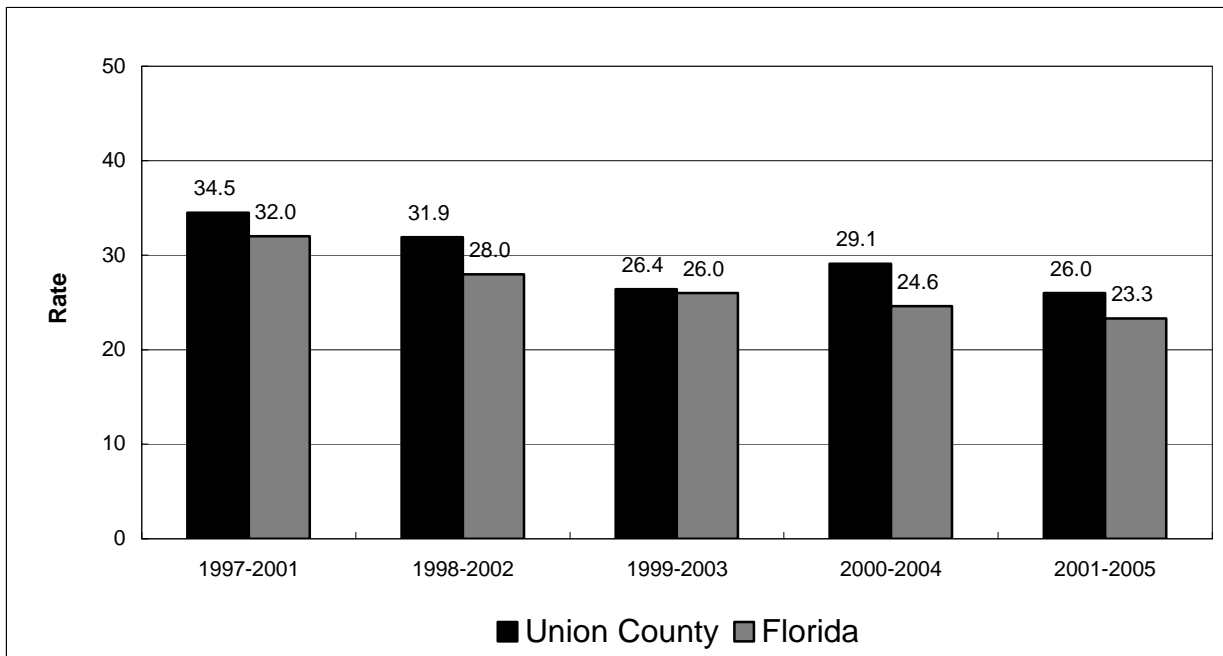
Table 3-24 and Figure 3-21 show that teens with repeat birth rates have increased for Union County in the last decade with the highest peak in 2000-2004. Since 1999-2003, Union County rates have surpassed the rate for Florida.

Table 3-22. Teen birth rates per 1,000 females 15-17 by race, Union County and Florida, 1997-2005.

Area	All Races									
	1997-2001		1998-2002		1999-2003		2000-2004		2001-2005	
	Number	Rate	Number	Rate	Number	Rate	Number	Rate	Number	Rate
Union County	49	34.5	44	31.9	35	26.4	37	29.1	33	26.0
Florida	44,141	32.0	42,123	28.0	40,077	26.0	38,749	24.6	37,694	23.3
Area	White Races									
	1997-2001		1998-2002		1999-2003		2000-2004		2001-2005	
	Number	Rate	Number	Rate	Number	Rate	Number	Rate	Number	Rate
Union County	39	33.8	31	27.0	23	20.9	27	25.7	21	20.0
Florida	25,674	25.2	24,738	22.0	23,753	20.6	23,098	19.6	22,776	18.9
Area	Black Races									
	1997-2001		1998-2002		1999-2003		2000-2004		2001-2005	
	Number	Rate	Number	Rate	Number	Rate	Number	Rate	Number	Rate
Union County	10	38.5	13	59.1	12	55.8	10	48.8	12	57.1
Florida	17,831	55.9	16,746	50.6	17,658	51.7	17,929	51.5	17,071	47.8

Source: State of Florida, Department of Health, Office of Vital Statistics, 1997-2005.

Prepared by: WellFlorida Council Inc., 2007.

Figure 3-20. Teen birth rates per 1,000 females 15-17, all races, Union County and Florida, 1997-2005.

Source: State of Florida, Department of Health, Office of Vital Statistics, 1997-2005.

Prepared by: WellFlorida Council Inc., 2007.

Table 3-23. Hispanic teen births per 1,000 females 15-17, Union County and Florida, 1997-2005.

Area	1997-2001		1998-2002		1999-2003		2000-2004		2001-2005	
	Number	Rate	Number	Rate	Number	Rate	Number	Rate	Number	Rate
Union County	2	80.0	1	40.0	1	40.0	1	50.0	1	50.0
Florida	9,621	33.7	9,826	32.9	10,012	32.4	10,287	32.2	10,662	32.4

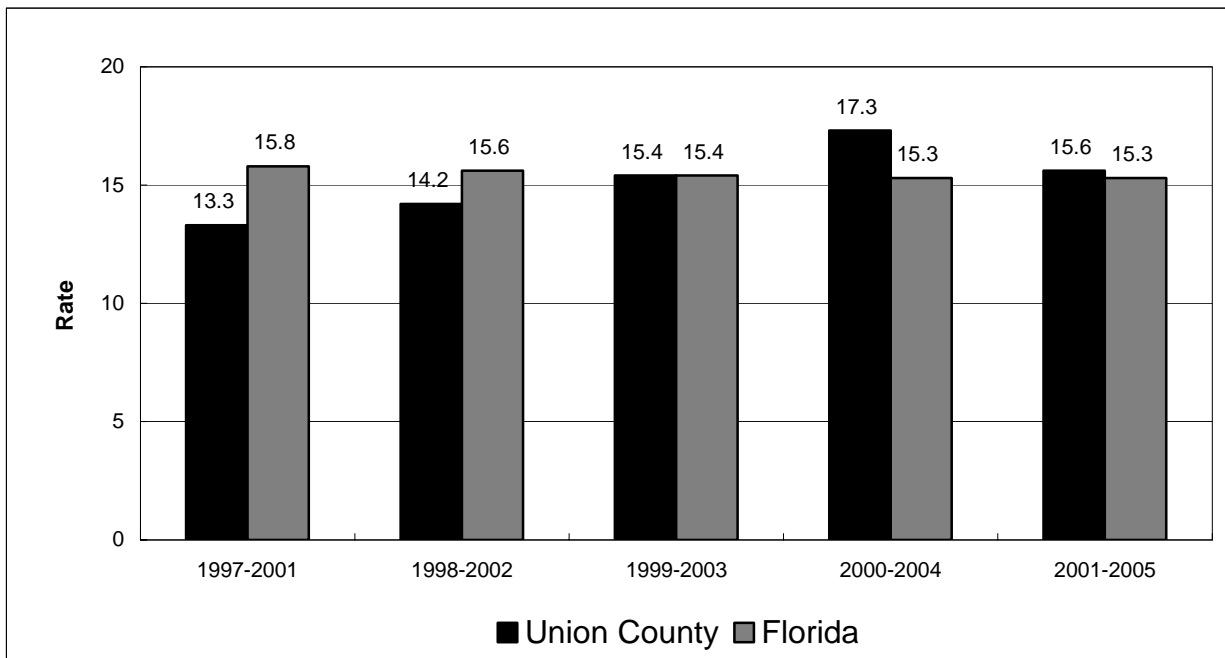
Source: State of Florida, Department of Health, Office of Vital Statistics, 1997-2005.
Prepared by: WellFlorida Council Inc., 2007.

Table 3-24. Repeat birth rates per 1,000 to moms 15-19 who had a previous birth for all races, Union County and Florida, 1997-2005.

Area	1997-2001		1998-2002		1999-2003		2000-2004		2001-2005	
	Number	Rate	Number	Rate	Number	Rate	Number	Rate	Number	Rate
Union County	23	13.3	25	14.2	28	15.4	28	17.3	22	15.6
Florida	27,534	15.8	26,419	15.6	25,157	15.4	23,956	15.3	22,968	15.3

Source: State of Florida, Department of Health, Office of Vital Statistics, 1997-2005.
Prepared by: WellFlorida Council Inc., 2007.

Figure 3-21. Repeat birth rates per 1,000 to moms 15-19 who had a previous birth for all races, Union County and Florida, 1997-2005.



Source: State of Florida, Department of Health, Office of Vital Statistics, 1997-2005.
Prepared by: WellFlorida Council Inc., 2007.

Key Mental Health Indicators

In general, morbidity data for mental health diseases and conditions are often difficult to obtain. This is due in part to the long-standing view that mental health is not a “health issue” because it does not manifest into a physical ailment. Therefore, oftentimes little baseline data pertaining to particular mental health indicators has been collected or compiled.

In order to present some insight into the mental health status of Union County residents, this section of the assessment will review suicide rates, domestic violence rates, hospitalization for mental illness rates, and Baker Act rates.

Suicide Rates

Statistically, whites are more likely to commit suicide than any other racial/ethnic demographic. The rates in Union County reflect this trend. The following two tables examine the crude and age-adjusted rates from both Union County and Florida residents from 2001-2005.

When comparing the age-adjusted death rates for all races from suicide per 100,000 population between Union County and Florida, Table 3-25 shows that Union County has slightly higher overall rates than Florida. This was true for white residents as well, while the rate for black residents in Union County was substantially higher compared to their counterparts in the state. The age-adjusted suicide rate per 100,000 population for white residents in Union County was about 2 times higher than the rate for black residents in Union County.

Table 3-25. Suicide crude and age-adjusted mortality rates per 100,000 population, by race, Union County and Florida, 2001-2005.

Area	All Races		
	Average Number of Deaths	Crude Rate	Age Adjusted Death Rate
Union County	2.0	14.1	13.3
Florida	2,319.6	13.5	12.8
Area	White Races		
	Average Number of Deaths	Crude Rate	Age Adjusted Death Rate
Union County	1.6	14.9	14.6
Florida	2,177.0	15.5	14.4
Area	Black Races		
	Average Number of Deaths	Crude Rate	Age Adjusted Death Rate
Union County	0.4	12.1	7.1
Florida	117.2	4.3	4.4

Source: State of Florida, Department of Health, Office of Vital Statistics, Public Health Statistics, 2001-2005.
Prepared by: WellFlorida Council Inc., 2007.

Statistically, males are more likely to commit suicide than females. This trend exists in Union County as well, but not at the same level as in the state of Florida (Table 3-26). In Union County, males were 1.2 times more likely to commit suicide than their female counterparts. In Florida, males were 3.5 times more likely to commit suicide than females. Additionally, the suicide mortality rate for males in Union County was lower than the rate for Florida. The opposite was true for females.

Table 3-26. Suicide crude mortality rates per 100,000 population by gender, Union County and Florida, 2001-2005.

Area	Males		Females	
	Average Number	Crude Rate	Average Number	Crude Rate
Union County	1.4	15.1	0.6	12.1
Florida	1,787.4	21.3	533.4	6.1

Source: State of Florida, Department of Health, Office of Vital Statistics, Public Health Statistics, 2001-2005.
Prepared by: WellFlorida Council Inc., 2007.

When examining rates of suicide by age, older adults (65 years and older) were most likely to commit suicide than any other age group (Table 3-27). This was true in Union County as well as in Florida. Adults 18-64 were a close second in Union County and in Florida.

Table 3-27. Suicide crude mortality rates per 100,000 population by age, Union County and Florida, 2001-2005.

Area	0-17		18-64		65+	
	Average Number	Crude Rate	Average Number	Crude Rate	Average Number	Crude Rate
Union County	-	-	1.8	17.6	0.2	18.4
Florida	43.4	1.1	1,746.8	16.9	529.8	17.8

Source: State of Florida, Department of Health, Office of Vital Statistics, Public Health Statistics, 2001-2005.
Prepared by: WellFlorida Council Inc., 2007.

Domestic Violence

Domestic violence is associated with eight out of the ten leading health concerns for *Healthy People 2010*. Medical studies link long-term effects of domestic violence and abuse with a myriad of major health problems including smoking, diabetes, obesity, eating disorders, and substance abuse, according to the Florida Department of Health.

In 2003, Florida domestic violence offenses accounted for approximately 20.0 percent of violent crimes. In addition, domestic violence plays a key role in juvenile crime, the need for foster care placements, and the existence of poverty in female-headed households according to the Department of Children and Families. Domestic violence, specifically sexual violence, more often goes unreported to authorities; therefore statistics presented may be lower than the actual number of crimes.

Table 3-28 illustrates the type of domestic violence offenses as well as the difference in incidence rates between Union County and the state. In 2006, the rate per 100,000 population of domestic violence offenses in Union County was much lower than the state rate.

Table 3-28. Domestic violence offenses by type, Union County and Florida, 2006.

Type	Union County	Florida
Murder	1	164
Manslaughter	0	19
Forcible Rape	0	1,089
Forcible Sodomy	0	369
Forcible Fondling	0	947
Aggravated Assault	3	20,193
Aggravated Stalking	0	259
Simple Assault	20	88,110
Threat/Intimidation	2	3,690
Stalking	0	330
Total	26	115,170
Population	15,028	18,349,132
Rate Per 100,000 Population	173.0	627.7

Source: Florida Department of Law Enforcement, Domestic Violence Annual Report, 2006.

Prepared by: WellFlorida Council Inc., 2007.

As illustrated in greater detail in Table 3-29 below, the Union County rates for domestic violence have been much lower than the rates for the state of Florida. The rates in Florida have continued to decrease over the previous five years. The domestic violence offenses in Union County increased in 2003, but have continued to decrease since then.

Table 3-29. Domestic violence offenses by year, Union County and Florida, 2002-2006.

Year	Union County		Florida	
	Number of Offenses	Rate Per 100,000	Number of Offenses	Rate Per 100,000
2002	48	348.0	121,834	730.7
2003	61	444.4	120,697	707.0
2004	54	369.4	119,772	683.8
2005	45	299.1	120,386	671.9
2006	26	173.0	115,170	627.7

Source: Florida Department of Law Enforcement, Domestic Violence Annual Report, 2002-2006.

Prepared by: WellFlorida Council, 2007.

Hospitalizations Due to Mental Health Issues

As noted in Table 3-30 below, the diagnosis-related groups (DRGs) used to define the hospitalization rates for mental health issues are 424-428, 430-433, and 521-523.

Table 3-30. DRGs used to define the hospitalization rates for mental health issues.

424	OR procedure with principal diagnosis of mental illness
425	Acute adjustment reactions and psychosocial dysfunction
426	Depressive neuroses
427	Neuroses except depressive
428	Disorders of personality and impulse control
430	Psychosis
431	Childhood mental disorders
432	Other mental disorders diagnoses
433	Alcohol/drug abuse or dependence, left against medical advice
521	Alcohol/drug abuse or dependence
522	Alcohol/drug abuse or dependence with rehab
523	Alcohol/drug abuse or dependence without rehab

Source: AHCA Detailed Discharge Data, 1999-2003, CHARTS.
Prepared by WellFlorida Council, 2007.

As seen in Table 3-31, between 2002 and 2006, the rate of hospitalization due to mental health issues in Union County was lower than the state. The rate for hospitalization due to mental health issues peaked in 2004 in Union County; the rates have decreased since that time and are at the lowest since 2002.

Table 3-31. Number and rate of hospitalizations per 1,000 due to mental health issues, 2002-2006.

Year	Union County		Florida	
	Number	Rate Per 1,000	Number	Rate Per 1,000
2002	49	3.6	123,579	7.4
2003	58	4.2	123,742	7.2
2004	68	4.6	127,257	7.2
2005	65	4.3	127,295	7.1
2006	62	4.1	126,772	6.9

Note: Mental health issues are defined as DRGs 424-428, 430-433 and 521-523.
Source: AHCA Detailed Discharge Data, 2002-2006, CHARTS accessed 11-5-07.
Prepared by: WellFlorida Council Inc., 2007.

Baker Act Rates

Another measure of mental health status is the rate at which residents are involuntarily placed in mental health institutions under the auspices of the Florida Mental Health Act (also known as the Baker Act). The Baker Act is the involuntary treatment of anyone who is mentally ill and is unable to understand his or her need for stabilization and/or treatment.

Table 3-32 below charts the number and rate of Baker Act initiations for the state and Union County in single year counts from 2001-2005. The rate for Baker Act initiations was lower in Union County than in Florida for all years. But the rates in Union County have fluctuated between the years 2001 to 2005, with the highest rate in 2005.

Table 3-32. Single year rates for Baker Act initiations in Union County and Florida, 2001-2005.

Year	Union County		Florida	
	Number of Initiations	Rate Per 100,000	Number of Initiations	Rate Per 100,000
2001	27	197.7	90,368	550.6
2002	30	217.6	99,772	594.9
2003	41	297.3	104,600	609.4
2004	33	223.7	110,697	628.5
2005	54	356.8	122,206	678.2

Source: AHCA, The Florida Mental Health Act (The Baker Act) 2005 Annual Report, CHARTS accessed 11-5-07.
Prepared by: WellFlorida Council Inc., 2007.

Summary of Key Findings

Leading Causes of Death

- From 2001 through 2005, an average of 163.4 deaths occurred each year in Union County, resulting in a crude rate of 1,148.7 per 100,000 of the population compared to a crude rate of 978.7 per 100,000 of the population of Florida.
- The average annual overall crude mortality rate in the 32054 (Lake Butler) zip code area was 1,350.1 per 100,000. In the 32083 (Raiford) zip code area the average annual crude overall mortality rate was 581.6 per 100,000.
- Cancer (350.1 per 100,000) is the leading cause of death in Union County resulting in an average of 49.8 deaths per year followed by heart disease (232.0 per 100,000) resulting in an average of 33.0 deaths per year.
- From 2001-2005, the average annual age-adjusted mortality rate in Union County was 1,519.0 per 100,000 of the population compared to 751.8 per 100,000 of the population for the state of Florida.
- When adjusted for age, Union County residents have higher average annual mortality rates than the state for all 10 of the 10 leading causes of death.

- Most likely impacted by the high number of incarcerated persons in Union County, the average annual age-adjusted mortality rate for HIV and liver disease were more than 4 times higher in Union County than in Florida.
- Although health disparities are present, the disparity between white and black residents for diabetes and HIV were more favorable in Union County than in Florida as a whole.
- Most unsettling was the finding that the black resident hypertension mortality rate was 32.6 times higher than the white resident rate in Union County and the disparity in rates was much more pronounced than for Florida as a whole.
- Since 1997 the age-adjusted all-cause mortality rate for Florida has decreased steadily. This trend is also true for Union County until the last data time frame in which the rate increased.
- The mortality from HIV and respiratory disease in Union County has decreased over the past ten years, while the deaths from HIV and respiratory disease for Florida have remained relatively stable.

Hospitalization

- The leading cause of hospitalization in Union County and Florida in 2004-2006 was for being a normal newborn followed by vaginal delivery without a complicating diagnosis. Esophagitis, gastroenteritis, and miscellaneous digestive disorders; chest pain; and simple pneumonia and pleurisy rounded out the top five causes of hospitalization in Union County.
- For children age 0-17, four of the top five leading causes of hospitalization were related to birth and related complications that may arise. However, bronchitis and asthma was the third leading cause. For older adults over the age of 65, simple pneumonia and pleurisy and heart failure and shock were tied for the leading cause of hospitalization.
- Private insurance was the leading payor source by percentage for Union County and the Lake Butler zip code area. In Florida, Medicare was the leading payor source resulting in approximately 41.8 percent of all discharges. The Raiford zip code area followed this trend as well.
- As expected due to its older population, Medicare patients had the longest length of stay compared to other payor sources in Union County and Florida.
- In 2006, there were over 18 avoidable hospitalizations per 1,000 population in Union County. This rate was higher than the avoidable hospitalizations for the state as a whole (13.5 per 1,000).

Birth Indicators

- Union County's birth rate was lower than the state as a whole. Unlike the trend we see in Florida, the birth rates of black residents of Union County were lower than that of white residents of Union County.
- Early access to prenatal care has been declining in Union County over the last decade. In addition, early access to prenatal care has been slightly higher in Union County than the Florida since 1997.
- Union County has a lower rate of low birthweight births from 2001-2005 when compared to Florida. Unfortunately, the low birthweight rate for black residents was more than

twice that of white residents in Union County and higher than their black counterparts throughout the state.

- The infant mortality rate for Union County was much lower than the Florida infant mortality rate from 2001-2005. Infant mortality has been steadily decreasing in Union County over the last decade.
- Teen birth rates were higher in Union County from 2001-2005 than for the state of Florida. But the black teen birth rate was nearly triple that for white teens in Union County, and both blacks and whites had higher teen birth rates than their counterparts for the entire state.
- The rates of teens with repeat births have increased for Union County in the last decade with the highest peak in 2000-2004. Since 1999-2003, the Union County rates have surpassed the rate for Florida.

Mental Health Indicators

- Suicide rates in Union County were slightly higher than the rates for Florida as a whole.
- The Union County rates for domestic violence have been much lower than the rates for the state of Florida, which have continued to decrease since 2003.
- The rate of hospitalization due to mental health issues in Union County was lower than the state from 2002-2006. The rate for hospitalization due to mental health issues peaked in 2004 in Union County; the rates have decreased since that time and are at the lowest since 2002.
- Baker Act initiations were lower in Union County than in Florida from 2001-2005.

Health Resource Availability and Access

Introduction

The availability of health resources is a critical component to the health of a county's residents and a measure of the soundness of the area's healthcare delivery system. Without an adequate supply of healthcare facilities, providers and services, maintaining good health status is a daunting challenge. Fewer facilities, providers and services means diminished opportunity to obtain healthcare in a timely fashion. Limited supply of health resources, especially providers, results in the limited capacity of the healthcare delivery system to absorb indigent and charity care as there are fewer providers upon which to distribute the burden. This section will address the availability of healthcare resources to the residents of Union County.

Provider and Facility Supply

Medically Underserved and Health Professional Shortage Areas

As defined by the federal government's Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA), the medically underserved area or population (MUA/P) designation involves the application of the Index of Medical Underservice (IMU) to data on a service area to obtain a measurement of underservice for a defined area or population. The IMU scale runs from 0 to 100, where 0 represents completely underserved and 100 represents best served or least underserved. Under the established criteria, each service area found to have an IMU of 62.0 or less qualifies for designation as an MUA.

The IMU involves four variables – ratio of primary medical care physicians per 1,000 population; infant mortality rate; percentage of population with incomes below the federal poverty level; and percentage of the population age 65 or older. The value of each of these variables for the service area is created to a weighted value, according to established criteria. The four values are then summed to obtain an area's IMU score.

In November 1978, Union County was designated as an MUA. Union County received a score of 57.80, which placed it below the 62.0 threshold. The MUA has not been updated or reviewed since 1978 (nor does the federal government require a regular and ongoing update of the IMU and MUA designation).

HRSA also evaluates primary care, dental and mental health care shortage areas and populations on a regular basis. The Shortage Designation Branch in the HRSA Bureau of Health Professions has developed shortage designation criteria and utilizes them to determine whether or not a geographic area or population group is a Health Professional Shortage Area (HPSA) in one of the three critical service areas. More than 34 federal programs depend on the shortage

designation to determine eligibility or as a funding preference. About 20 percent of the U.S. population resides in primary medical care HPSAs. The following criteria are utilized for primary medical care shortage designations:

A geographic area will be designated as having a shortage of primary medical care professionals if the following three criteria are met:

1. The area is a rational area for the delivery of primary medical care services.
2. One of the following conditions prevails within the area:
 - a. The area has a population to full-time-equivalent primary care physician ratio of at least 3,500:1.
 - b. The area has a population to full-time-equivalent primary care physician ratio of less than 3,500:1 but greater than 3,000:1 and has unusually high needs for primary care services or insufficient capacity of existing primary care providers.
3. Primary medical care professionals in contiguous areas are overutilized, excessively distant, or inaccessible to the population of the area under consideration

Union County has HPSA designations for all three of the core service areas: primary medical care, dental care and mental health care. These designations are for different populations and are summarized in Table 4-1.

The low-income populations have been designated as primary medical care HPSAs. The low-income/migrant farm workers and the Reception and Medical Center (correctional institution population have been designated a dental health HPSA. The entire county as well as the correctional institutions (Union Correctional Institute and Reception Medical Center) were designated a mental health HPSA.

HPSAs are customarily reviewed every four years. The reviews of primary medical care, dental care and mental health care should have occurred numerous times since 1978. This lack of review warrants additional investigation.

Table 4-1. Summary of Health Professional Shortage Areas (HPSAs) and Medically Underserved Area Populations (MUA/Ps), Union County, June 2006.

Professional Shortage Area/ Underserved Area	Designation Status	Designation Type
Primary Health	Yes	Low-Income
Dental Health	Yes	Low-Income/Migrant Farmworker Population; Correctional Institution
Mental Health	Yes	Entire County; Correctional Institution
Medically Underserved	Yes	Entire County

Source: US Department of Health and Human Services, Bureau of Health Professions, November 6, 2007.

Prepared by: WellFlorida Council, Inc., 2007.

Licensed Physicians

The availability of licensed physicians and nurses is critical to meeting the healthcare needs of a community. However, it is often difficult to get an accurate number of physicians and nurses that are practicing and providing services in a community. The Florida Department of Health's Division of Medical Quality Assurance licenses these professionals. However, the county stored for licensees in the database is their mailing address which may or may not be identical to the county in which they are providing services. This tends to most significantly impact the licensed nurses; therefore this section only presents the number of licensed physicians for Union County.

According to Table 4-2, there are 239.4 licensed medical doctors and doctors of osteopathy per 100,000 population for all of Florida while there are only 78.5 per 100,000 population for Union County. This number does not capture those doctors that provide services in Union County but who are licensed elsewhere, but does include the doctors that are licensed in Union County but provide services in another county.

Table 4-2. Number and rate of active licensed medical doctors and doctors of osteopathy, Union County and Florida, 2007.

Area	Number by Type			Rate Per 100,000 Population
	MD	DO	MD/DO Total	
Union County	12	-	12	78.5
Florida	41,480	3,748	45,228	239.4

Note: Includes only licensed MDs and DOs with an active license in the state of Florida and a Florida mailing address.

Source: Florida Department of Health Division of Medical Quality Assurance as of November 10, 2007; ESRI Business Solutions, 2007.

Prepared by: WellFlorida Council Inc., 2007.

Licensed Facilities

Table 4-3 is presented solely as an overview of the inventory of licensed facilities in Union County. The total number of facilities and total capacity change regularly. For the most up-to-date numbers on licensed facilities, consult www.Floridahealthstat.com.

Please note that the Reception and Medical Center in Union County houses 3 of the identified clinical laboratories and one of the hospitals. The Reception and Medical Center hospital has the capacity to house 153 inmates. The remaining hospital in Union County has a capacity of 25 that is available to the general public.

Table 4-3. Licensed facilities by type in Union County, 2007.

Type of Facility	Total Number	Total Capacity
Ambulatory Surgical Center	1	2
Clinical Laboratory *	8	NA
HCC - Exemptions	1	NA
Home Medical Equipment	1	NA
Homemaker & Companion Services	1	NA
Hospital *	2	178
Rural Health Clinic	2	NA

* Please note that the Reception and Medical Center houses 3 of the Clinical Laboratories and one of the hospitals (capacity 153).

Source: Agency for Health Care Administration, Licensure, 2007.

Prepared by: WellFlorida Council Inc, 2007.

Access to Healthcare

The Uninsured

Utilizing estimates from the *2004 Florida Health Insurance Study* conducted by the Florida Agency for Health Care Administration, in 2007, 19.2 percent of Floridians (more than 2.9 million residents) under the age of 65 were uninsured (Table 4-4). In Union County, just over 3,000 residents age 0-64, approximately 21.5 percent of the population, had no form of public or private health insurance coverage.

Table 4-4. Estimated number of non-elderly uninsured by zip code, Union County and Florida, 2007.

Area	2007 Population	Uninsured	
		Estimated Number	Percent
32054 Lake Butler	11,110	2,378	21.4
32083 Raiford	3,012	648	21.5
Union Zip Codes	14,122	3,025	21.4
Union County	14,151	3,042	21.5
Florida	15,511,820	2,978,270	19.2

Source: ESRI Business Solutions, 2007; Agency for Health Care Administration, Florida Health Insurance Study 2004, Zip Code Estimates of People Without Health Insurance.

Prepared by: WellFlorida Council, Inc., 2007.

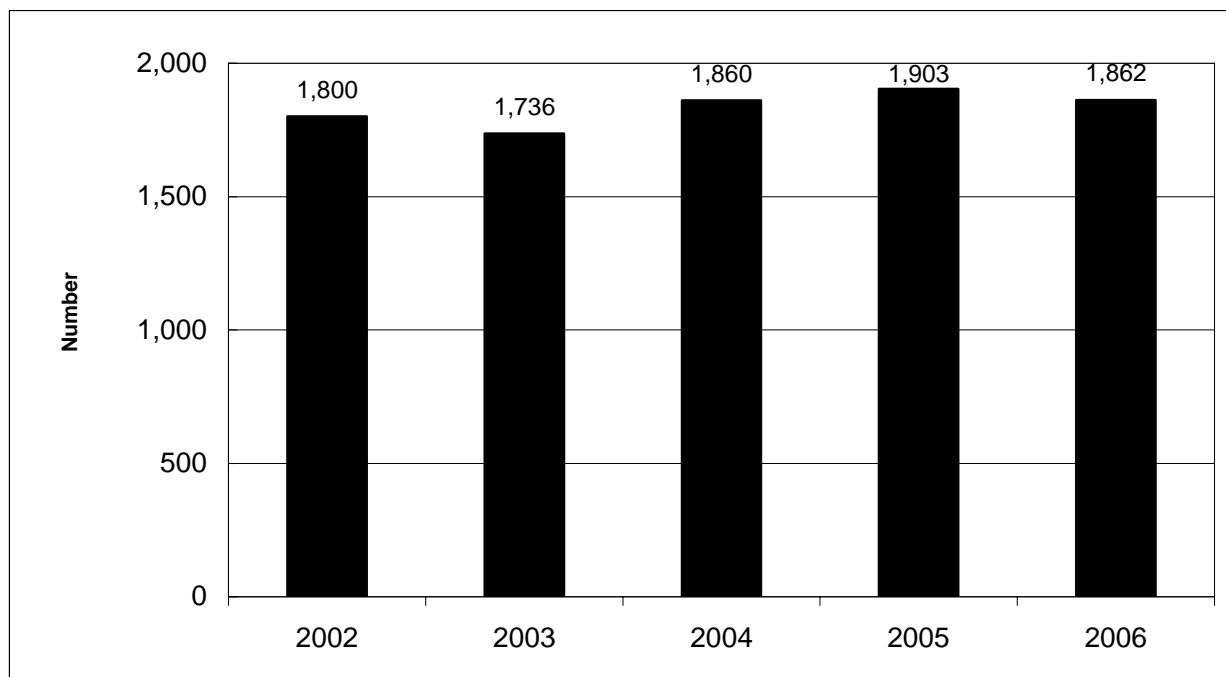
Medicaid

The Florida Medicaid program provides healthcare to various low-income and other special needs groups. The program is administered by the Agency for Health Care Administration and is funded through federal and state cost-sharing, with local counties contributing to inpatient hospital and nursing home service.

In Florida, eligibility for most Medicaid primary medical care is reserved for pregnant women (up to 185 percent of the federal poverty level) and children. All Medicaid recipients are required to enroll in one of the managed care systems (either a Medicaid HMO or Medipass) implemented by Florida's Medicaid program.

The number of individuals eligible to receive Medicaid varies month by month. Figure 4-1 and Table 4-5 displays data for the year-end number of eligibles on December 31 of each year. At year's end in 2006, there were 1,862 Medicaid eligibles in Union County compared to 1,800 as of December 31, 2002. Between 2002 and 2006, the eligible Medicaid population in Union County remained fairly stable while the total population increased.

Figure 4-1. Number of Medicaid eligibles in Union County as of December 31, 2002-2006.



Source: Agency for Health Care Administration, Medicaid Program Analysis, 2006.
Prepared by: WellFlorida Council Inc., 2007.

Table 4-5 shows the number of Medicaid eligibles by zip code for Union County from 2002-2006. As seen in Table 4-5, a large portion of the Medicaid population is in the Lake Butler zip code area (32054). But, the number of Medicaid eligibles has fluctuated in both Union County zip codes since 2002.

Table 4-6 shows the average monthly number of Medicaid eligibles in various age groups for November 1, 2006 through October 31, 2007. In Union County, on average, 57.1 percent of the Medicaid eligibles were age 0-18 compared to 55.2 percent for Florida. It is noteworthy that in Union County over 33 percent of Medicaid eligibles were age 19-64 while just over 28 percent of Florida's Medicaid eligibles were age 19-64.

Table 4-5. Number of Medicaid eligibles by zip code, by county and Florida as of December 31, 2002-2006.

Area	December 2002	December 2003	December 2004	December 2005	December 2006
32054 Lake Butler	1,796	1,720	1,758	1,879	1,741
32083 Raiford	226	215	239	251	219
Union Zip Codes	2,022	1,935	1,997	2,130	1,960
Union County	1,800	1,736	1,860	1,903	1,862
Florida	2,102,411	2,087,652	2,168,332	2,233,946	2,129,623

Source: Agency for Health Care Administration, Medicaid Program Analysis, 2006.
Prepared by: WellFlorida Council Inc., 2007.

Table 4-6. Average number of Medicaid eligibles by age in Union County and Florida, November 1, 2006 - October 31, 2007.

Age	Union County		Florida	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
0-5	408	21.8	534,688	25.2
6-10	293	15.6	275,394	13.0
11-18	370	19.7	360,151	17.0
19-20	33	1.8	42,851	2.0
21-35	268	14.3	243,541	11.5
36-59	266	14.2	272,716	12.9
60-64	54	2.9	49,759	2.3
65-74	90	4.8	153,582	7.3
75-84	59	3.1	123,202	5.8
85+	35	1.8	62,303	2.9
TOTAL	1,875	100.0	2,118,186	100.0

Source: Agency for Health Care Administration, Medicaid Program Analysis, 2006-2007.
Prepared by: WellFlorida Council Inc., 2007.

Table 4-7 shows Medicaid expenditures by type for Union County and Florida for a recent 11-month period. Expenditures for this period amounted to more than \$2.6 million for Union County and over \$10.7 billion for the state. In Union County, HMO-PHP services accounted for 7.1 percent of the expenditures compared to 20.0 percent in Florida as a whole. Home and community-based services accounted for 21.4 percent of Medicaid expenditures in Union County compared to 9.4 percent in Florida as a whole. In addition, prescribed drugs accounted for nearly 22 percent of all Medicaid expenditures in Union County compared to only 8.7 percent for all of Florida.

Table 4-7. Medical expenditures by type by county and Florida, July 1, 2006 - May 31, 2007.

Type of Medical Assistance	Union County				Florida			
	Clients		Dollars		Clients		Dollars	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Adult Day Care	0	-	\$ 0.00	-	0	-	\$ 0.00	-
Ambulatory Surgical	13	1.7	\$ 4,215.68	0.2	37,119	1.2	\$ 14,115,099.76	0.1
Birthing Center	0	-	\$ 0.00	-	2,182	0.1	\$ 1,205,557.40	0.0
Case Management	17	2.2	\$ 14,222.75	0.5	70,729	2.2	\$ 31,377,974.23	0.3
Chiropractor Services	4	0.5	\$ 341.43	0.0	8,576	0.3	\$ 1,071,393.14	0.0
Comm Mental Services	42	5.5	\$ 43,792.47	1.6	95,656	3.0	\$ 143,411,070.82	1.3
Dental Care	48	6.3	\$ 11,354.04	0.4	311,924	9.8	\$ 84,438,072.51	0.8
DME Dial Crossover	27	3.6	\$ 26,445.64	1.0	51,237	1.6	\$ 34,324,474.83	0.3
End-Stage Renal	1	0.1	\$ 30,084.71	1.1	1,550	0.0	\$ 12,977,701.59	0.1
EPSDT	21	2.8	\$ 1,676.04	0.1	362,780	11.4	\$ 50,535,270.45	0.5
Family Planning	0	-	\$ 0.00	-	0	-	\$ 0.00	-
Hearing Services	7	0.9	\$ 5,082.80	0.2	18,427	0.6	\$ 3,615,827.51	0.0
HMO - PHP	261	34.4	\$ 188,606.73	7.1	2,041,590	64.2	\$ 2,147,235,531.87	20.0
Home And Comm Based Services	38	5.0	\$ 567,816.49	21.4	266,300	8.4	\$ 1,014,850,050.94	9.4
Home Health	54	7.1	\$ 76,960.63	2.9	114,613	3.6	\$ 254,290,298.48	2.4
Hospice	0	-	\$ 0.00	-	16,987	0.5	\$ 229,276,796.67	2.1
ICF - MR	0	-	\$ 0.00	-	3,276	0.1	\$ 291,109,415.50	2.7
Inpatient Hospital	106	14.0	\$ 526,258.27	19.8	421,667	13.3	\$ 1,950,883,170.38	18.2
Lab and Xray	105	13.9	\$ 8,447.70	0.3	447,449	14.1	\$ 48,214,767.13	0.4
Medipass	269	35.5	\$ 6,666.61	0.3	1,033,225	32.5	\$ 22,205,743.04	0.2
Nurse Practitioner	114	15.0	\$ 9,771.22	0.4	213,675	6.7	\$ 41,206,647.79	0.4
Outpatient Hospital	570	75.2	\$ 236,687.35	8.9	1,041,135	32.7	\$ 486,499,280.66	4.5
Physician Care	305	40.2	\$ 184,466.40	6.9	1,312,394	41.3	\$ 596,712,222.06	5.6
Podiatry	12	1.6	\$ 1,894.86	0.1	37,425	1.2	\$ 3,234,079.58	0.0
Portable Xray	0	-	\$ 0.00	-	28,316	0.9	\$ 1,536,206.94	0.0
Practitioner Crossover	0	-	\$ 0.00	-	454	0.0	\$ 13,753.51	0.0
Prescribed Drugs	261	34.4	\$ 584,628.32	22.0	1,013,706	31.9	\$ 935,760,618.58	8.7
Primary Care Management	0	-	\$ 0.00	-	0	-	\$ 0.00	-
Rural Health	119	15.7	\$ 42,829.09	1.6	199,984	6.3	\$ 61,094,205.65	0.6
Rural Hospital Swing Bed	0	-	\$ 0.00	-	48	0.0	\$ 1,080,617.62	0.0
SNF	13	1.7	\$ 55,261.94	2.1	132,957	4.2	\$ 2,105,951,396.03	19.6
State Mental Hospital	0	-	\$ 0.00	-	157	0.0	\$ 6,474,235.19	0.1
Therapy Services	4	0.5	\$ 4,561.66	0.2	60,183	1.9	\$ 109,376,483.49	1.0
Transportation	59	7.8	\$ 14,680.41	0.6	167,894	5.3	\$ 41,796,846.56	0.4
Unassigned	0	-	\$ 0.00	-	57	0.0	\$ 267,281.33	0.0
Visual	74	9.8	\$ 8,778.94	0.3	168,049	5.3	\$ 17,289,665.45	0.2
Total	758		\$ 2,655,532.18	100.0	3,181,538		\$ 10,743,431,756.69	100.0

Source: Agency for Health Care Administration Medicaid Management Information System Recap of Welfare Medical Assistance Report, July 1, 2006 - May 31, 2007.

Prepared by: WellFlorida Council Inc., 2007.

HMO Enrollment

Health maintenance organization (HMO) health insurance plans are often more affordable than standard private insurance and preferred provider organization (PPO) plans. In theory, the insured person is subjected to care management by a primary care provider that often leads to more efficient utilization of healthcare resources and subsequent lower costs.

According to the Florida Department of Insurance (DOI), as seen in Table 4-8, 6 of Florida's 36 HMOs are enrolling clients in Union County. As of June 30, 2006, approximately 1,500 Union County residents were enrolled in HMOs. In fact, Union County's HMO enrollment rate of 98.3 persons per 1,000 population is substantially lower than the state of Florida rate of 203.4 per 1,000.

Table 4-9 shows 100 percent of Union County's HMO enrollment is in all other plans, which includes individuals, small groups, Healthy Kids and federal employees compared to 61.9 percent statewide. None of Union County's HMO enrollment is in Medicare and Medicaid HMO plans, compared to approximately 40 percent of the state's HMO enrollment falling into these categories. This is most likely due to Union County being such a small county and a small market that Medicare and Medicaid HMOs are not willing to enroll such small numbers. Many small counties in the Panhandle and north central Florida do not have any Medicare or Medicaid HMO penetration.

Table 4-8. Total and percent HMO's and enrollees, by county and Florida as of June 30, 2006.

Area	Total HMO's		Total HMO Enrollees		
	Number	Percent of State	Number	Percent of State	Rate Per 1,000 Population
Union County	6	16.7	1,496	0.04	98.3
Florida	36	100.0	3,758,544	100.0	203.4

Source: State of Florida, Department of Financial Services, Managed Care Summary Report as of June 30, 2006; ESRI Business Solutions, 2006.

Prepared by: WellFlorida Council Inc., 2007.

Table 4-9. Total and percent HMO's enrollment by type, by county and Florida as of June 30, 2006.

Area	Total HMO Enrollees	HMO Enrollment Type					
		Medicare		Medicaid		All Others	
		Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Union County	1,496	-	-	-	-	1,496	100.0
Florida	3,758,544	651,903	17.3	779,909	20.8	2,326,732	61.9

All Others include: individuals, small groups, Healthy Kids and federal employees.

Source: State of Florida, Department of Financial Services, Managed Care Summary Report as of June 30, 2006; ESRI Business Solutions, 2006.

Prepared by: WellFlorida Council Inc., 2007.

Summary of Key Findings

Provider Facility Supply

- Union County has been designated as a medically underserved area by the federal government in 1978. These designations are typically reviewed every four years, and the lack of review of the designations warrants additional investigation.
- The low-income population has been designated a health professional shortage area by the federal government for primary medical care.
- The low-income/migrant workers population and the Reception and Medical Center correctional institute have been designated a health professional shortage area by the federal government for dental care.
- The correctional institutions in Union County and the county itself have been designated a health professional shortage area by the federal government for mental health.
- The rate of licensed physicians and doctors of osteopathy per 100,000 population, with license addresses in Union County, is less than one third that for Florida.

Access to Healthcare

- In 2007, there were over 3,000 non-elderly uninsured in Union County.
- The percentage of non-elderly uninsured in Union County in 2007 was 21.5 percent compared to 19.2 percent for the state.
- As of December 31, 2006, there were 1,862 Medicaid eligibles in Union County.
- Between 2002 and 2006, the eligible Medicaid population in Union County remained fairly stable while the total population increased.
- In Union County, HMO-PHP services accounted for 7.1 percent of the expenditures compared to 20.0 percent in Florida as a whole.
- Home and community-based services accounted for 21.4 percent of Medicaid expenditures in Union County compared to 9.4 percent in Florida as a whole.
- Prescription drugs accounted for nearly 22 percent of all Medicaid expenditures in Union County compared to only 8.7 percent for all of Florida.
- All HMO enrollment in Union County was identified as other enrollment including individuals, small group, Healthy Kids and federal employee programs. As of June 2006, there were no Medicaid or Medicare HMOs present in Union County.

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Community Input

Overview

The perspective and voices of residents, providers, patients and key leaders and decision-makers (i.e., community input) are critical when assessing the healthcare needs of any community. Quantitative data on demographics and health status and outcomes alone do not paint the full picture of a community's healthcare needs and issues and its ability to address those needs and issues. The Community Health Needs Assessment Committee (Committee) has ensured that ample qualitative and community perspective information is incorporated into the needs assessment.

This section details six focus groups conducted with groups of special interest in the community: senior citizens, African Americans (2), Hispanic, correctional system employees, and the low-income/working population.

Resident Focus Groups

Introduction

The purpose of a focus group is to listen and gather information. It is a way to better understand how people feel or think about an issue, product or service. Participants are selected because they have certain characteristics in common that relate to the topic of the focus group. As part of the 2007 Community Health Needs Assessment, the Committee conducted six focus groups to increase ability to identify local healthcare trends and patterns. Because the Committee works with the residents of this county on a daily basis and are familiar with the populations that are under-represented or tend to have more difficulty accessing services, they were charged with selecting special populations of interest. The Committee targeted African Americans, senior citizens, correctional system employees, Hispanic and low-income/working populations for the focus group discussions. The specific purpose of these focus groups was to gather information about health and healthcare services in Union County.

Methodology

Two trained focus group facilitators conducted six focus groups during the months of September and October 2007. Two of the groups were comprised of African Americans, one targeting rural residents and one targeting residents of the county seat, Lake Butler; one was comprised of senior citizens (65 yrs. of age and older); one was comprised of correctional system employees; one was comprised of Hispanic residents; and one was comprised of individuals from the low-income/working population. Focus group protocols and questions were developed by the facilitators with input from WellFlorida Council, Inc. and the Health Needs Assessment Committee (Appendix B).

Participants for these groups were recruited by newspaper advertisement; recruitment advertisements posted at local shopping centers, churches and neighborhood bulletin boards; and through word of mouth recruiting. A \$10.00 gift card from Wal-Mart was offered as a participation incentive and was issued to participants at the conclusion of each meeting. Participant recruitment began approximately two weeks prior to the first group meeting and continued throughout the month of October.

Participant registration was not performed as typically recommended by the WellFlorida Council. WellFlorida Council recommends that registration be made through a designated telephone line at which time a brief “screening” is performed to ensure the appropriateness of the caller for participation in the group, i.e., the caller fit into one of the identified race, age or economic target groups. Due to the hard-to-reach nature of the populations of study, face-to-face recruiting was the primary mechanism for registration. Typically, one key community member who matched the target population would recruit members of the population to attend. This resulted in one group significantly larger (23 participants) in size than typically allowed in focus group research.

Each location was carefully selected based on the target populations. Four of the six focus groups, one from the African American, Hispanic, senior citizen, and correctional system employees, were held in Lake Butler (the county seat). The remaining two focus groups were held in locations to increase the likelihood of the attendance of the target population. The second African American group was held in a rural area of the county and the low-income/working poor group was held in Raiford. The group meeting sites included the local library, Lake Butler Hospital, the Union County Health Department, local community centers and churches. Meeting times were varied and included midmorning and evening, based on the likelihood of the target population attending. To the extent possible, meeting rooms were well lit, well ventilated and stocked with tables, chairs, snacks and drinks to ensure a comfortable environment for participants. Meeting length was approximately 1 ½ hours each.

One facilitator acted as discussion moderator and the other as recorder. The meetings were audio tape recorded with the permission of all participants. After introduction and explanation of meeting format, 13 questions were sequentially presented to participants for discussion. At the end of each focus group meeting, the recorder gave a summary of the discussion to participants to ensure that the notes taken accurately reflected the discussion.

There were a total of 52 Union County residents that participated in the focus groups. Participants ages ranged from 16 years to 82 years. The majority of the participants were female (73 percent). 63.4 percent identified themselves as black, 32.7 percent identified themselves as white and 5.8 percent identified themselves as being of Hispanic ethnicity. The length of residency in Union County varied among participants from less than one year to their entire lives.

Focus Group Question and Answer Summaries

Q1. Let's suppose I am new to the community and needed some health information, where would you suggest I go?

Brief Summary

The most frequently heard responses to this question from the group participants were: local county and state agencies, hospitals, physician's offices, and health clinics including the health department. Word of mouth and obtaining advice or information from other community members were also mentioned several times as resources. Participants in the correctional system employees group mentioned the use of the internet to find health information. The African American groups discussed the churches as a place for health information and resources.

Notable Quotes

- "I would say the health department and maybe the hospital. I know a person at the hospital I would tell you to get in to contact with them."
- "I would go to other community members; we have been friends so we help each other out."
- "I think people who are sophisticated in Union County use the internet."

Q2. Where would you suggest I not go (to get health information)?

Brief Summary

There was not consensus across groups regarding where they would not recommend getting information. There were themes or issues that were identified within specific groups that are noteworthy. The African American rural group participants commented that Lake Butler Hospital did not meet their health information needs primarily due to not being treated well by staff and having to wait a long time for services and information. It was suggested by some participants in this group that these barriers may be because of racial background or their ability to pay for services. Both African American and the low-income/working poor discussed that the information or support received is based on whether the person or organization you are trying to access services from knows you or your family. Those that are not known are less likely to get help or support.

Notable Quotes

- "They treat you like you are the lowest thing or not important, we finally went to our primary doctor in Gainesville. It is bad that when you live in Union County and you prefer to go to Gainesville when we have a local hospital. Because we get treated like dirt."

- “People they don’t know they ain’t going to treat them right.”

Q3. Considering your own experiences, what is your general perspective on healthcare in Union County?

Brief Summary

In general, participants commented that Union County has a sufficient amount of general practice and primary healthcare services, but residents have to travel out of the county for specialty care. Participants also mentioned that there is a need for more specialized services in the county including dental care, obstetrician services, eye services and nursing home care. The African American and low-income/working poor groups commented that they often felt that the providers in Union County do not care about their health and healthcare needs.

Notable Quotes

- “We definitely need more services.”
- “You can use the doctors for general practice, but if you need a specialist you have to go somewhere else.”
- “I have heart problems and I am concerned with what Union County has to offer in regards to this. If I have a heart attack is Union County able to care for me? I think the hospital does what it is equipped to do, but I think we need more doctors who can care for me.”
- “Raiford is just a little spot on the map that people don’t care about.”
- “They help who they please in Lake Butler. They help who they like. That is the way it is run in Lake Butler.”

Q4. What has helped you or your family to improve or maintain your health?

Brief Summary

Participants in multiple groups identified programs in the community that have been helpful including Suwannee River Economic Council, ACORN clinic and the health department. But the participants also recognized that these programs are limited. Participants recommended offering additional health education programs and expanding target populations, i.e., expand services to population groups outside of seniors. Participants also mentioned that activities like screenings, health fairs, and educational programs have been beneficial.

Participants felt that applying healthy lifestyle behaviors such as eating the proper diet and regular exercise has helped them to improve or maintain their health. The participants also mentioned living in a rural community provides them with opportunities to be outside and be active, including outdoor recreation.

The correctional system employees group identified their employer sponsored health benefits as a resource for helping to improve and maintain their health. Some of the health benefits mentioned were providing full health insurance coverage, access to workout facilities at the

correctional facilities, and having an environment that encourages healthy behaviors at the worksite.

Notable Quotes

- “We have had someone come here and show the women how to check their breasts and had them fill out cards for women who have never had a mammogram.”
- “Having good health insurance from the prison lets me get the services I need. Those that don’t have health insurance might have trouble getting the services that they need.”
- “The senior lunches at SREC. They give you a healthy meal and portion control.”

Q5. What are the problems or barriers you see in maintaining or improving your or your family’s health?

Brief Summary

Access to Care

- Limited healthcare services, i.e., dental services, vision care, and home care
- Limited local specialists, i.e., gerontologist, obstetricians
- Limited healthcare providers due to insurance coverage
- Transportation barriers
- Limited opportunity for flexible appointments, i.e., flexible schedules for working people
- Long waiting time for accessing needed services

Cost of Care

- Lack of affordable health insurance
- Lack of affordable healthcare, i.e., walk-in clinics
- Cost of prescription medications
- Limited eligibility for assistance programs, i.e., Medicaid, disability
- Limited knowledge on current insurance provider coverage and benefits

Lack of Health Information

- Limited knowledge of how to access needed health information
- Information is not readily available
- Limited knowledge of where to go for healthcare services.

Safety

- Seniors identified a lack of safe places to exercise and be physically active primarily because of dogs that are not leashed or fenced in.

Translation and Language Services

- Limited services and information available in Spanish

- Limited Spanish assistance to apply for needed services and programs, i.e., pre-natal care

Notable Quotes (Access to Care and Cost of Care)

- “No prenatal care. I went to do prenatal care at the health department but you have to go to Starke or Gainesville. In Lake City they have the Healthy Start Program, but the lady up there did not contact me for anything.”
- “I think I had to wait about 4 months before I could see a diabetes doctor.”
- “EMS takes a long time to get out here.”
- “Most of us can’t afford our medicine. I have heard of people spending more than \$600 per month.”
- “I am in a position where I can’t get Medicaid. I am not old enough to get Medicare. So I have no insurance. I go to the health department and I am very happy with them except they haven’t been able to keep doctors. I don’t know the reason for that, but that has been a problem. I like the ones they have they just move on. At times they don’t have a doctor.”
- “For us, me and my daughter got Medicaid, but he (husband) can’t get anything. I don’t understand. He was in a car accident and can’t work.”
- “Health insurance is not affordable anymore. Even if you get a full time job you can’t afford it.”

Notable Quotes (Medicaid, Lack of Health Information and Safety)

- “There are some forms that I am supposed to fill out but I don’t know how to do that. I need someone who can talk Spanish.”
- “Our newspaper only comes out once a week, so sometimes it is hard to get the information out there in a timely fashion.”
- “Before I had a doctor, I didn’t know what to do.”
- “Here in town you can’t walk because of the dogs. The dogs are not chained or fenced.”

Q6. We often hear that transportation is an issue that impacts accessing needed healthcare. Is this something that impacts you?

Brief Summary

Transportation was identified as an issue in each of the groups, except the Hispanic group. The Hispanic group participants said that cost of healthcare was the primary issue they faced in accessing medical care. The participants stated they could get transportation if needed.

In general, all other groups identified transportation as a significant issue, particularly for seniors. All identified the one provider that is available in the county, A&A Transportation. Participants commented that even though this transportation service is available it is often inconvenient, resulting in very long wait times. Participants also discussed how reservations for transportation were required 24 hours in advance and how often times this was not an option when one gets sick and needs immediate access to healthcare services. There were also questions about the eligibility requirements to use the transportation services.

When asked how participants usually get to and from their healthcare appointments, many mentioned often having to rely on family and friends to take them to appointments. If family or friends were not available, this would result in missing the appointment and rescheduling to when they could arrange transportation.

Notable Quotes

- “A&A Transport, they take people, but that is the only one in Lake Butler. Sometimes, you have to be in Gainesville for 4 or 5 hours.”
- “My mom has to try and get off of work early to take me to my appointments.”
- “You have a lot of people especially in Lake Butler that just don’t have a way to get to Gainesville or those places. We don’t have a cab service or public transportation. We have a lot of people who don’t have telephones.”

Q7. Do you or members of your family go outside of the county to receive healthcare?

Consensus was reached across groups that it is necessary to go outside of the county to receive healthcare. This was especially true when needing to access specialty care. Some participants reported staying in the county for their primary care and going outside the county for specialty care; others reported going outside the county for all healthcare services. The services that they receive outside the county include: primary care, dental care, vision services, prenatal care, cardiologists, dialysis, nursing home care, mental health and substance abuse, and physical therapy.

Notable Quotes

- “My husband and I try to keep a primary doctor here but we have go out of the county for specialists. But with transportation and everything it is difficult.”
- “All my doctors are outside the county.”
- “I don’t live in Lake Butler, I live in the south side of the county. The closest major city to me is Alachua and Gainesville. So that is where I go for care.”

Q8. In order to improve your family’s health, what do you need?

Each group discussed a variety of services that would help to improve their family’s health and healthcare. Financial assistance including insurance and prescription drug assistance was mentioned most frequently. Recreation and socialization activities including exercise programs for seniors, recreation facilities, and safe programs for the youth to attend was mentioned across groups. Group participants also discussed the need for more specialist providers, providers who take Medicaid, additional health clinics based on income (i.e., ACORN Rural Health Clinic), and urgent care centers.

Notable Quotes

- “We need a clinic here like the ACORN clinic, just for Union County.”
- “What is there for the kids to do, nothing. When school is in there is football, basketball, and stuff. But when school is out there is nothing. Only some of the churches can do programs because of smaller memberships. When the children have nothing to do, they get into the wrong things, like drugs.”
- “Even if you have Medicaid, it is hard to get what you need.”
- “Urgent care centers. We had to go all they way to Gainesville. If we had an urgent care center here that would be great.”
- “There are no OB services here.”
- “Our community is starting to get older and we don’t have a lot of services out there for the elderly people.”
- “We need to get people insured.”

Q9. What do you think are the most serious or pressing health care needs in Union County?

Each group shared what they felt were the most serious healthcare needs in Union County. The following lists highlights what each group discussed:

Low-Income/Working

- Access to information
- Affordable healthcare and health insurance
- Substance abuse

Seniors

- Access to information
- Lack of providers and specialist providers
- Substance abuse
- Health insurance (vision and dental)
- Cost of prescription medications

African American (Lake Butler Group)

- Access to information
- Transportation
- Recreation and socialization activities
- Services for the elderly
- Health insurance and affordable healthcare services
- Cost of prescription medications

African American (Rural Group)

- Substance abuse
- Lack of providers and specialists
- Health insurance
- Transportation
- Recreation and socialization activities

Hispanic

- Cost of health care
- Language and communication barriers

Correctional Facilities Employees

- Substance abuse
- Lack of providers and specialists
- Recreation and socialization activities
- Affordable healthcare services
- Teenage pregnancy

To determine the most important healthcare needs in Union County across groups, a sum of the number of times the issues were identified was computed. The need for affordable healthcare and health insurance was mentioned most frequently across groups, including prescription drug assistance. Access to information about programs and services and recreation and socialization activities were tied for the second most frequently mentioned issue. Substance abuse and the lack of local providers and specialist providers rounded out the top five.

Q10. What do you think could be done to address these healthcare needs?

Brief Summary

Participants were asked to share some suggestions about what could be done to address the healthcare needs identified above. Some suggestions included: offer affordable health insurance, similar to Florida KidCare; provide health screenings and basic education at community events; increase patrol and enforcement of substance abuse; explore opportunities for grants to bring services to the area; and provide opportunities for recreation and socialization for the children that are safe and offered all year round.

Notable Quotes

- “I would like to see a grant that is written to help low income that would take care of the transportation and medication. I would like see a grant to help the elderly. I know there are a lot of services out there, but only the white middle class get the services.”
- “We asked if they could patrol around this area. But we never see them.”
- “When we were growing up we had a skating rink and a movie theater. Now our kids

have to go to a different county to do anything. If they go to Gainesville that is bad. It is not a safe place for them to be especially at night.”

Q11. Do you think the use of tobacco (smoking and smokeless) is a problem in Union County? Do you think it is higher or lower than other parts of the state? Why? Do you have any suggestions about what can be done to reduce the number of people who use tobacco in Union County?

Brief Summary

Overwhelmingly, participants viewed tobacco use (smoking and smokeless) as a problem, though many felt that it was not any greater than anywhere else. The Hispanic group was the only group that did not recognize use as a problem because the participants reported not using it. Some participants said that smokeless tobacco was a bigger problem than smoking tobacco, and that it was more accepted. Participants shared mixed reviews about the enforcement of tobacco policies in the schools. But most agreed that tobacco was easy for youth to get, either through older friends, parents, or purchasing it at the store. Participants also mentioned that there was an acceptance of tobacco use in the county. Some participants suggested that this might be due to tobacco being a primary source of revenue for the county for a long time.

Unique to the correctional facilities employee group, the participants identified that the use of smokeless tobacco was a large problem among their male employees. Participants said that this was part of the culture of the institution.

Notable Quotes

- “I think Union County is really bad on it. I have sat in class and watched students dip.”
- “Just because they know someone they can get away with it.”
- “I know they (the health department) offers smoking cessation classes, but no one goes.”
- “Growing tobacco used to be big money in Union County. This changed when the government bought the land.”
- “People are brought up to think tobacco use is okay because their parents use it.”
- “I don’t think the kids get enough education. They smoke at the school. You can see them smoking up and down the sidewalk.”
- “They will get suspended there at the school if they got caught. We are real strict on them here. We don’t promote any type of thing like that for our youth.”
- “I am a tobacco user, there are a lot of tobacco users at the prison, smokeless tobacco users.”
- “This is a rural community and in the rural south there are a lot of men that chew tobacco.”
- “SWAT, they put on all types of meetings and little things as a group to promote being tobacco free. It is a good thing.”
- “Oh lord, I think some of them dip before they can walk.”
- “You even have grown people going out to buy the stuff for their children.”

Q12. What is your perspective on how the community members feel about the Union County Health Department?

Brief Summary

Participants expressed mixed views on the health department. A consistent theme discussed across groups was that the health department services are not well advertised to the public. Therefore the community members are not informed about the available services and program eligibility requirements to utilize health department services. Participants also discussed that services, like prenatal care, used to be offered at the Union County Health Department but are no longer available. Focus group participants also discussed the issue of physician recruitment and retention. Participants commented that the Union County Health Department has difficulty getting and keeping physicians on staff. Participants discussed that community members do not utilize the health department to its full capacity because people are unaware of the services or have a negative attitude about going to the health department.

In the African American groups, participants shared their concerns about potential issues with violating patient confidentiality. The participants commented that they were concerned that their health issues were not being kept confidential.

The members of the Hispanic group said that this was the first time they have been to the health department. They suggested advertising services on the radio in Spanish and going around to the trailers to distribute flyers about what services are available. They also stressed that materials needed to be translated into Spanish to be useful.

The following services were identified by participants as being offered by the health department:

- Prenatal care and annual women physicals
- Flu shots
- Health documents, i.e., birth certificates
- Clinical services, i.e., doctors appointments and sports or employment physicals
- Prescription assistance programs
- WIC services
- Immunizations
- HIV testing

Notable Quotes

- “They offer a variety of services. We have a problem of getting people in the community to use those services and a lot of them are free.”
- “When you drive by and notice this nice building on a Tuesday afternoon and no one is in the parking lot it makes you wonder if it is even worth having the county pay for a health department. I wish the community would understand that there are services there that they can take advantage of.”
- “If someone sees you at the health department they would think, oh she’s pregnant.”

- “Since everyone who works there is from Lake Butler, then they might think their confidential stuff isn’t really confidential.”
- “A lot of times people wouldn’t go. When you go there and you come out they sit there and talk about your business and everyone can hear it.”
- “Union County doesn’t have a full-time doctor. They have a doctor on call, but they can’t seem to keep a doctor for some reason.”
- “They need to advertise, put posters in the stores. We only got but one store in Raiford.”
- “This is the first time I am here.”

Q13. What is your perspective on the role that community members, like yourselves, play in improving the overall health of Union County?

Brief Summary

Participants across groups said that community members play an important role in improving the overall health of the county. Participants said that they play an active role in getting the word out and helping other community members in need. They also discussed the importance of getting out and supporting local programs and activities. One participant mentioned the importance of getting community leaders involved in health and healthcare because it does not seem like a priority to them at this time.

Notable Quotes

- “A lot of times I read the paper I find out information and I try to pass the information around.”
- “Community members need to support local programs.”
- “Everybody around here we pretty much look out for each other.”
- “I think it is every citizen’s duty to get involved.”

Facilitator Observations

Focus groups were conducted as a qualitative data input to the 2007 Union County Community Health Needs Assessment. The 2007 Community Health Needs Assessment solicited responses from the African American, senior, Hispanic, and correctional system employees and working/low-income resident populations. Inclusion of focus group input in the 2007 Community Health Needs Assessment will provide decision-makers and the public with an expanded vision of our community’s perception of healthcare in Union County. In summary:

- The general perception of Union County healthcare services is that they are limited. There are primary care providers available in the county, but for specialty services residents must travel outside the county.
- According to participants, there is a need for more affordable healthcare and health insurance in the county (based on income), i.e., walk-in clinics. The cost of prescription medications was a significant barrier for participants as well as the difficulty participants faced when trying to determine program or insurance eligibility and requirements.

- Transportation was an identified barrier for receiving healthcare services for all residents, particularly the elderly.
- Participants also indicated a need for more affordable healthy lifestyle resources, i.e., recreation centers, walkable communities, healthy food choices (fresh fruits and vegetables). This was stressed in terms of healthy, safe opportunities for the youth of the county. Many participants identified that there were limited recreation opportunities for youth that may be contributing to risk-taking behaviors.
- Based on participant response, there appears to be a need for a more centralized marketing strategy/campaign of available healthcare services and programs. There were many comments emanating from the groups that highlighted the lack of participant awareness of programs that already exist and knowledge of how to access those programs.
- Participants recognized tobacco use (smoking and smokeless) as an issue in Union County. There were mixed comments on the enforcement of tobacco policies on school grounds. Of additional concern is the acceptance of tobacco products, particularly smokeless tobacco, by Union County residents.
- Union County residents communicated a strong, tight-knit community in which the community members rely heavily upon each other. Therefore, utilizing existing community-based groups and/or community members for health education and outreach opportunities is vital.

Differences between the different population groups in this study were very apparent. The description below highlights some of the issues that were isolated to each population group.

African American

The African American groups expressed a feeling of unimportance and a history of not being treated well by healthcare providers in the community regardless of ability to pay for services. They also discussed that the availability and quality of services or resources was dependent upon whom you knew in the county. Those who were well known were more likely to get services or resources. They also identified potential issues regarding their confidentiality of health information when utilizing services at the Union County Health Department.

Low-Income/Working Poor

The primary issue identified by this group was the need for affordable health insurance. The participants discussed the difficult decision they face regarding their health because they do not have the means to pay for their needed services. Group members expressed frustration in not qualifying for public assistance programs based on their income but not being able afford the services they needed. Participants in this group also expressed the desire to be treated in the same way as those who have insurance or can pay for their services. Group participants also expressed a lack of knowledge about programs or services available in the community.

Correctional Facility Employees

The participants in this group recognized that the lack of local specialist providers was a barrier that they faced, but indicated they could easily access the services they need in neighboring counties. The participants stressed that the insurance they receive through their employer helps them to improve and maintain their health. They also felt fortunate to be working in a system that recognizes the importance of health and wellness and provides opportunities to engage in healthy activities at the worksite. Health fairs and other educational opportunities are encouraged by the correctional facilities in the county. But, they did recognize that the use of smokeless tobacco among male employees is a primary health issue in their population.

Seniors

The primary issue identified by seniors was the lack of information about health and healthcare services and the limited number of specialist providers in the county. Members of this group discussed how many people do not know what services are currently available. Traveling outside the county for services can be problematic. The participants were unclear of the eligibility requirement for transportation services. Additionally, there was considerable discussion about the need for recreation and exercise activities in the county to help maintain their health. Other issues of concern included lack of affordable insurance (particularly vision and dental) and the cost of prescription medications.

Hispanic Group

Due to the small number of participants in the Hispanic group, generalizations should be made with caution. That aside, there was a sense of minimal knowledge about the services and resources available in Union County. The participants commented that cost of medical care was the most prohibitive factor to them receiving care. The three participants in the group were unfamiliar with services offered at the health department or other providers in the county. The participants commented on avoiding or delaying health care because of the cost.

In 2005 the Union County Health Department conducted a series of interviews with 50 key community stakeholders. The findings of that assessment supported the findings presented in this community input section in the following ways:

- Community leaders recognized that health insurance and the cost of healthcare services in the county impacted individual's ability to access care.
- Community leaders recognized a need for general health and specialty healthcare providers in the community. They also identified a need for increasing services for elderly and youth.
- Community leaders also commented on the limited knowledge of the general public as to available services and resources.

Summary of Key Findings

The following are the key observations derived from an analysis of the comments and insights gathered during the community input phase of the needs assessment:

- Focus group participants stressed that the healthcare services in Union County are very limited and travel to neighboring counties absolutely necessary when needing to access specialty care.
- The cost of healthcare is a major barrier to healthcare for the residents of Union County, even those with health insurance. Community members stressed the need for affordable healthcare, such as walk-in clinics. Also needed are opportunities for affordable health insurance and prescription medication assistance.
- Focus group participants identified having access to more resources that promote healthy lifestyles as a key area of concern; this is of particular concern for the youth. Many participants identified that there are very few healthy lifestyle opportunities available to the youth in the county.
- Focus group participants called for some forms of information outreach. The great majority of participants identified that lack of information about programs and services was a significant issue in the county.

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Appendix A

Total Hospitalizations by Population Group for Union County, 2004-2006

Source:

State of Florida, Agency for Health Care Administration, Detailed Discharge Data, 2004-2006.

Table A- 1. Leading causes of hospitalization for Union County all races resident populations, 2004-2006.

DRG	2004		2005		2006		2004-2006	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Normal Newborn (391)	108	4.6	124	4.7	122	4.4	354	4.6
Vaginal Delivery without complicating diagnosis (373)	84	3.6	95	3.6	93	3.4	272	3.5
Esophagitis, Gastroenteritis and Miscellaneous Digestive Disorders, Age > 17 with CC (182)	46	1.9	42	1.6	53	1.9	141	1.8
Chest Pain (143)	56	2.4	42	1.6	37	1.3	135	1.7
Simple Pneumonia and Pleurisy, Age > 17 with CC (089)	36	1.5	49	1.9	43	1.5	128	1.7
Cesarean Section without CC (371)	37	1.6	36	1.4	38	1.4	111	1.4
Heart Failure and Shock (127)	35	1.5	34	1.3	41	1.5	110	1.4
Major Small and Large Bowel Procedures with CC (148)	39	1.7	38	1.5	28	1.0	105	1.4
GI Hemorrhage with CC (174)	36	1.5	34	1.3	34	1.2	104	1.3
Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease (088)	20	0.8	34	1.3	43	1.5	97	1.3
Other Circulatory System Diagnoses with CC (144)	31	1.3	25	1.0	40	1.4	96	1.2
Renal Failure (316)	22	0.9	36	1.4	37	1.3	95	1.2
Psychoses (430)	36	1.5	32	1.2	26	0.9	94	1.2
Back an Neck Procedures Except Spinal Fusion without CC (500)	27	1.1	31	1.2	26	0.9	84	1.1
Other Circulatory System O.R. Procedures (120)	32	1.4	20	0.8	30	1.1	82	1.1
Percutaneous Cardiovascular Procedure with Drug-Eluting Stent without AMI (527)	41	1.7	41	1.6	-	-	82	1.1
All Others	1,676	71.0	1,903	72.7	2,084	75.1	5,663	73.0
Total	2,362	100.0	2,616	100.0	2,775	100.0	7,753	100.0

Numbers in parentheses() are the DRG code.
Source: AHCA Detailed Discharge Data, 2004-2006.
Prepared by: WellFlorida Council Inc., 2007.

Table A- 2. Leading causes of hospitalization for Union County female resident populations, 2004-2006.

DRG	2004		2005		2006		2004-2006	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Vaginal Delivery without complicating diagnosis (373)	84	9.3	95	9.3	93	9.4	272	9.3
Normal Newborn (391)	57	6.3	57	5.6	70	7.1	184	6.3
Cesarean Section without CC (371)	37	4.1	36	3.5	38	3.8	111	3.8
Esophagitis, Gastroenteritis and Miscellaneous Digestive Disorders, Age > 17 with CC (182)	24	2.7	28	2.7	29	2.9	81	2.8
Simple Pneumonia and Pleurisy, Age > 17 with CC (089)	21	2.3	28	2.7	26	2.6	75	2.6
Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease (088)	14	1.6	25	2.4	23	2.3	62	2.1
Uterine and Adnexa Procedures for Nonmalignancy without CC (359)	14	1.6	21	2.0	24	2.4	59	2.0
Psychoses (430)	22	2.4	18	1.8	15	1.5	55	1.9
Heart Failure and Shock (127)	18	2.0	15	1.5	18	1.8	51	1.7
Vaginal Delivery with Complicating Diagnoses (372)	19	2.1	14	1.4	8	0.8	41	1.4
Chest Pain (143)	14	1.6	12	1.2	13	1.3	39	1.3
Esophagitis, Gastroenteritis and Miscellaneous Digestive Disorders, Age > 17 without CC (183)	10	1.1	10	1.0	16	1.6	36	1.2
Renal Failure (316)	8	0.9	12	1.2	14	1.4	34	1.2
Neonate with other significant problems (390)	18	2.0	9	0.9	7	0.7	34	1.2
Laparoscopic Cholecystectomy without Common Duct Exploration without CC (494)	15	1.7	9	0.9	8	0.8	32	1.1
All Others	526	58.4	638	62.1	590	59.5	1,754	60.1
Total	901	100.0	1,027	100.0	992	100.0	2,920	100.0

Numbers in parentheses() are the DRG code.
Source: AHCA Detailed Discharge Data, 2004-2006.
Prepared by: WellFlorida Council Inc., 2007.

Table A- 3. Leading causes of hospitalization for Union County male resident populations, 2004-2006.

DRG	2004		2005		2006		2004-2006	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Normal Newborn (391)	51	3.5	67	4.2	52	2.9	170	3.5
Chest Pain (143)	42	2.9	30	1.9	24	1.3	96	2.0
Major Small and Large Bowel Procedures with CC (148)	31	2.1	34	2.1	23	1.3	88	1.8
Other Circulatory System O.R. Procedures (120)	32	2.2	19	1.2	29	1.6	80	1.7
GI Hemorrhage with CC (174)	24	1.6	23	1.4	29	1.6	76	1.6
Other Circulatory System Diagnoses with CC (144)	25	1.7	11	0.7	34	1.9	70	1.4
Other Ear, Nose, Mouth and Throat O.R. Procedures (63)	22	1.5	19	1.2	24	1.3	65	1.3
Other Vascular Procedures with CC (478)	40	2.7	23	1.4	-	-	63	1.3
HIV with Major Related Condition (489)	11	0.8	15	0.9	36	2.0	62	1.3
Back and Neck Procedures Except Spinal Fusion without CC (500)	19	1.3	22	1.4	21	1.2	62	1.3
Other Kidney and Urinary Tract O.R. Procedures (315)	10	0.7	24	1.5	27	1.5	61	1.3
Renal Failure (316)	14	1.0	24	1.5	23	1.3	61	1.3
Percutaneous Cardiovascular Procedure with Drug-Eluting Stent without AMI (527)	30	2.1	31	2.0	-	-	61	1.3
Esophagitis, Gastroenteritis and Miscellaneous Digestive Disorders, Age > 17 with CC (182)	22	1.5	14	0.9	24	1.3	60	1.2
Heart Failure and Shock (127)	17	1.2	19	1.2	23	1.3	59	1.2
All Others	1,071	73.3	1,214	76.4	1,413	79.3	3,698	76.5
Total	1,461	100.0	1,589	100.0	1,782	100.0	4,832	100.0

Numbers in parentheses() are the DRG code.

Source: AHCA Detailed Discharge Data, 2004-2006.

Prepared by: WellFlorida Council Inc., 2007.

Table A- 4. Leading causes of hospitalization for Union County black resident populations, 2004-2006.

DRG	2004		2005		2006		2004-2006	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Normal Newborn (391)	17	3.5	18	3.7	19	3.4	54	3.5
HIV with Major Related Condition (489)	8	1.6	11	2.2	28	5.1	47	3.1
Other Circulatory System Diagnoses with CC (144)	18	3.7	12	2.5	11	2.0	41	2.7
Other Circulatory System O.R. Procedures (120)	19	3.9	4	0.8	17	3.1	40	2.6
Renal Failure (316)	8	1.6	12	2.5	12	2.2	32	2.1
Vaginal Delivery without complicating diagnosis (373)	9	1.9	11	2.2	11	2.0	31	2.0
Other Vascular Procedures with CC (478)	18	3.7	13	2.7	-	-	31	2.0
Other Kidney and Urinary Tract O.R. Procedures (315)	6	1.2	8	1.6	16	2.9	30	2.0
Chest Pain (143)	15	3.1	6	1.2	7	1.3	28	1.8
Major Small and Large bowel Procedures with CC (148)	12	2.5	10	2.0	5	0.9	27	1.8
Heart Failure and Shock (127)	12	2.5	7	1.4	7	1.3	26	1.7
Intracranial Hemorrhage or Cerebral Infarction (014)	5	1.0	15	3.1	3	0.5	23	1.5
GI Hemorrhage with CC (174)	7	1.4	10	2.0	4	0.7	21	1.4
Red Blood Cell Disorders, Age > 17 (395)	8	1.6	6	1.2	7	1.3	21	1.4
Other Vascular Procedures with CC without Major Cardiovascular Diagnosis (554)	-	-	1	0.2	18	3.3	19	1.2
All Others	324	66.7	345	70.6	387	70.1	1,056	69.2
Total	486	100.0	489	100.0	552	100.0	1,527	100.0

Numbers in parentheses() are the DRG code.

Source: AHCA Detailed Discharge Data, 2004-2006.

Prepared by: WellFlorida Council Inc., 2007.

Table A- 5. Leading causes of hospitalization for Union County white resident populations, 2004-2006.

DRG	2004		2005		2006		2004-2006	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Normal Newborn (391)	88	5.9	106	6.3	102	5.7	296	6.0
Vaginal Delivery without complicating diagnosis (373)	73	4.9	83	4.9	81	4.5	237	4.8
Esophagitis, Gastroenteritis and Miscellaneous Digestive Disorders, Age > 17 with CC (182)	37	2.5	36	2.1	41	2.3	114	2.3
Simple Pneumonia and Pleurisy, Age > 17 with CC (089)	30	2.0	47	2.8	36	2.0	113	2.3
Cesarean Section without CC (371)	34	2.3	28	1.7	30	1.7	92	1.9
Chest Pain (143)	36	2.4	30	1.8	25	1.4	91	1.8
Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease (088)	18	1.2	32	1.9	38	2.1	88	1.8
Heart Failure and Shock (127)	20	1.3	26	1.5	33	1.9	79	1.6
Psychoses (430)	29	1.9	23	1.4	22	1.2	74	1.5
GI Hemorrhage with CC (174)	23	1.5	18	1.1	25	1.4	66	1.3
Esophagitis, Gastroenteritis and Miscellaneous Digestive Disorders, Age > 17 without CC (183)	16	1.1	20	1.2	28	1.6	64	1.3
Neonate with other significant problems (390)	23	1.5	20	1.2	19	1.1	62	1.2
Percutaneous Cardiovascular Procedure with Drug-Eluting Stent without AMI (527)	27	1.8	33	2.0	-	-	60	1.2
Septicemia, Age > 17 (416)	19	1.3	13	0.8	23	1.3	55	1.1
Circulatory Disorders Except Acute Myocardial Infarction with Cardiac Catheterization without Complex Diagnosis (125)	15	1.0	14	0.8	24	1.3	53	1.1
Major Small and Large Bowel Procedures with CC (148)	18	1.2	20	1.2	15	0.8	53	1.1
All Others	994	66.3	1,130	67.3	1,240	69.6	3,364	67.8
Total	1,500	100.0	1,679	100.0	1,782	100.0	4,961	100.0

Numbers in parentheses() are the DRG code.

Source: AHCA Detailed Discharge Data, 2004-2006.

Prepared by: WellFlorida Council Inc., 2007.

Table A- 6. Leading causes of hospitalization for Union County all other resident populations, 2004-2006.

DRG	2004		2005		2006		2004-2006	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Back an Neck Procedures Except Spinal Fusion without CC (500)	13	3.5	15	3.3	6	1.4	34	2.7
Other Circulatory System O.R. Procedures (120)	13	3.5	10	2.2	7	1.6	30	2.4
Other Ear, Nose, Mouth and Throat O.R. Procedures (63)	12	3.2	4	0.9	12	2.7	28	2.2
Major Small and Large Bowel Procedures with CC (148)	9	2.4	8	1.8	8	1.8	25	2.0
Other Vascular Procedures with CC without Major Cardiovascular Diagnosis (554)	-	-	8	1.8	17	3.9	25	2.0
HIV with Major Related Condition (489)	4	1.1	8	1.8	10	2.3	22	1.7
Major Chest Procedures (75)	7	1.9	10	2.2	4	0.9	21	1.7
Other Circulatory System Diagnoses with CC (144)	6	1.6	3	0.7	12	2.7	21	1.7
Hernia Procedures Except Injinal and Femoral, Age > 17 without CC (160)	7	1.9	7	1.6	7	1.6	21	1.7
Other Kidney and Urinary Tract O.R. Procedures (315)	4	1.1	13	2.9	4	0.9	21	1.7
Other Vascular Procedures with CC (478)	14	3.7	7	1.6	-	-	21	1.7
Cervical Spinal Fusion without CC (520)	5	1.3	9	2.0	5	1.1	19	1.5
Circulatory Disorders Except Acute Myocardial Infarction with Cardiac Catheterization without Complex Diagnosis (125)	6	1.6	6	1.3	6	1.4	18	1.4
GI Hemorrhage with CC (174)	6	1.6	6	1.3	5	1.1	17	1.3
Percutaneous Cardiovascular Procedure with Drug-Eluting Stent without Major Cardiovascular Diagnosis (558)	-	-	5	1.1	12	2.7	17	1.3
All Others	270	71.8	329	73.4	326	73.9	925	73.1
Total	376	100.0	448	100.0	441	100.0	1,265	100.0

Numbers in parentheses() are the DRG code.
Source: AHCA Detailed Discharge Data, 2004-2006.
Prepared by: WellFlorida Council Inc., 2007.

Table A- 6. Leading causes of hospitalization for Union County Hispanic resident populations, 2004-2006.

DRG	2004		2005		2006		2004-2006	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Normal Newborn (391)	2	5.6	2	4.5	4	9.3	8	6.5
Chest Pain (143)	2	5.6	1	2.3	2	4.7	5	4.1
Vaginal Delivery without complicating diagnosis (373)	1	2.8	1	2.3	3	7.0	5	4.1
Simple Pneumonia and Pleurisy, Age > 17 with CC (089)	2	5.6	1	2.3	1	2.3	4	3.3
Cesarean Section without CC (371)	1	2.8	2	4.5	1	2.3	4	3.3
Other Ear, Nose, Mouth and Throat O.R. Procedures (63)	-	-	2	4.5	1	2.3	3	2.4
Respiratory Neoplasms (82)	2	5.6	1	2.3	-	-	3	2.4
Inflammatory Bowel Disease (179)	1	2.8	1	2.3	1	2.3	3	2.4
Prematurity without Major Problems (388)	-	-	3	6.8	-	-	3	2.4
HIV with Major Related Condition (489)	-	-	-	-	3	7.0	3	2.4
All Others	25	69.4	30	68.2	27	62.8	82	66.7
Total	36	100.0	44	100.0	43	100.0	123	100.0

Numbers in parentheses() are the DRG code.
Source: AHCA Detailed Discharge Data, 2004-2006.
Prepared by: WellFlorida Council Inc., 2007.

Table A- 7. Leading causes of hospitalization for Union County non-Hispanic resident populations, 2004-2006.

DRG	2004		2005		2006		2004-2006	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Normal Newborn (391)	106	4.6	122	4.7	118	4.3	346	4.5
Vaginal Delivery without complicating diagnosis (373)	83	3.6	94	3.7	90	3.3	267	3.5
Esophagitis, Gastroenteritis and Miscellaneous Digestive Disorders, Age > 17 with CC (182)	45	1.9	42	1.6	52	1.9	139	1.8
Chest Pain (143)	54	2.3	41	1.6	35	1.3	130	1.7
Simple Pneumonia and Pleurisy, Age > 17 with CC (089)	34	1.5	48	1.9	42	1.5	124	1.6
Heart Failure and Shock (127)	35	1.5	34	1.3	41	1.5	110	1.4
Cesarean Section without CC (371)	36	1.5	34	1.3	37	1.4	107	1.4
Major Small and Large Bowel Procedures with CC (148)	38	1.6	37	1.4	28	1.0	103	1.3
GI Hemorrhage with CC (174)	35	1.5	33	1.3	34	1.2	102	1.3
Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease (088)	20	0.9	34	1.3	43	1.6	97	1.3
Other Circulatory System Diagnoses with CC (144)	31	1.3	25	1.0	39	1.4	95	1.2
Renal Failure (316)	22	0.9	35	1.4	37	1.4	94	1.2
Psychoses (430)	36	1.5	31	1.2	26	1.0	93	1.2
Back and Neck Procedures Except Spinal Fusion without CC (500)	27	1.2	31	1.2	26	1.0	84	1.1
Other Circulatory System O.R. Procedures (120)	32	1.4	20	0.8	30	1.1	82	1.1
All Others	1,692	72.7	1,911	74.3	2,054	75.2	5,657	74.1
Total	2,326	100.0	2,572	100.0	2,732	100.0	7,630	100.0

Numbers in parentheses() are the DRG code.

Source: AHCA Detailed Discharge Data, 2004-2006.

Prepared by: WellFlorida Council Inc., 2007.

Table A- 8. Leading causes of hospitalization for Union County children 0-17 resident populations, 2004-2006.

DRG	2004		2005		2006		2004-2006	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Normal Newborn (391)	108	40.0	124	41.9	122	43.3	354	41.7
Neonate with other significant problems (390)	26	9.6	26	8.8	23	8.2	75	8.8
Bronchitis and Asthma (098)	5	1.9	15	5.1	8	2.8	28	3.3
Prematurity without Major Problems (388)	5	1.9	13	4.4	8	2.8	26	3.1
Full Term Neonate with Major Problems (389)	8	3.0	3	1.0	8	2.8	19	2.2
Psychoses (430)	8	3.0	5	1.7	5	1.8	18	2.1
Viral Illness and Fever of Unknown Origin, Age 0-17 (422)	4	1.5	5	1.7	7	2.5	16	1.9
Simple Pneumonia and Pleurisy, Age 0-17 (091)	5	1.9	6	2.0	4	1.4	15	1.8
Cellulitis, Age 0-17 (279)	2	0.7	5	1.7	8	2.8	15	1.8
Otitis Media and URI, Age 0-17 (070)	4	1.5	6	2.0	3	1.1	13	1.5
Depressive Neuroses (426)	5	1.9	4	1.4	4	1.4	13	1.5
Vaginal Delivery without complicating diagnosis (373)	5	1.9	3	1.0	4	1.4	12	1.4
Extreme Immaturity or Respiratory Distress Syndrome of Neonate (386)	4	1.5	8	2.7	-	-	12	1.4
Esophagitis, Gastroenteritis and Miscellaneous Digestive Disorders, Age 0-17 (184)	6	2.2	4	1.4	1	0.4	11	1.3
Neonates, Died or Transferred to Another Acute Care Facility (385)	6	2.2	4	1.4	-	-	10	1.2
All Others	69	25.6	65	22.0	77	27.3	211	24.9
Total	270	100.0	296	100.0	282	100.0	848	100.0

Numbers in parentheses() are the DRG code.
Source: AHCA Detailed Discharge Data, 2004-2006.
Prepared by: WellFlorida Council Inc., 2007.

Table A- 9. Leading causes of hospitalization for Union County adults 18-64 resident populations, 2004-2006.

DRG	2004		2005		2006		2004-2006	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Vaginal Delivery without complicating diagnosis (373)	79	4.8	92	5.1	89	4.5	260	4.8
Chest Pain (143)	49	3.0	35	1.9	27	1.4	111	2.0
Cesarean Section without CC (371)	36	2.2	35	1.9	37	1.9	108	2.0
Esophagitis, Gastroenteritis and Miscellaneous Digestive Disorders, Age > 17 with CC (182)	32	1.9	27	1.5	39	2.0	98	1.8
Major Small and Large Bowel Procedures with CC (148)	30	1.8	31	1.7	21	1.1	82	1.5
Back and Neck Procedures Except Spinal Fusion without CC (500)	24	1.5	30	1.7	26	1.3	80	1.5
Other Circulatory System O.R. Procedures (120)	32	1.9	18	1.0	29	1.5	79	1.5
HIV with Major Related Condition (489)	14	0.9	21	1.2	43	2.2	78	1.4
Other Circulatory System Diagnoses with CC (144)	26	1.6	15	0.8	35	1.8	76	1.4
Psychoses (430)	26	1.6	25	1.4	20	1.0	71	1.3
GI Hemorrhage with CC (174)	21	1.3	24	1.3	23	1.2	68	1.3
Cervical Spinal Fusion without CC (520)	16	1.0	24	1.3	26	1.3	66	1.2
Other Ear, Nose, Mouth and Throat O.R. Procedures (63)	22	1.3	17	0.9	25	1.3	64	1.2
Circulatory Disorders Except Acute Myocardial Infarction with Cardiac Catheterization without Complex Diagnosis (125)	19	1.2	17	0.9	26	1.3	62	1.1
Other Kidney and Urinary Tract O.R. Procedures (315)	12	0.7	23	1.3	27	1.4	62	1.1
All Others	1,207	73.4	1,364	75.9	1,482	75.0	4,053	74.8
Total	1,645	100.0	1,798	100.0	1,975	100.0	5,418	100.0

Numbers in parentheses() are the DRG code.
Source: AHCA Detailed Discharge Data, 2004-2006.
Prepared by: WellFlorida Council Inc., 2007.

Table A- 10. Leading causes of hospitalization for Union County senior 65 and older resident populations, 2004-2006.

DRG	2004		2005		2006		2004-2006	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Simple Pneumonia and Pleurisy, Age > 17 with CC (089)	20	4.5	26	5.0	23	4.4	69	4.6
Heart Failure and Shock (127)	16	3.6	21	4.0	32	6.2	69	4.6
Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease (088)	14	3.1	22	4.2	23	4.4	59	4.0
Esophagitis, Gastroenteritis and Miscellaneous Digestive Disorders, Age > 17 with CC (182)	14	3.1	15	2.9	14	2.7	43	2.9
Renal Failure (316)	9	2.0	16	3.1	16	3.1	41	2.8
GI Hemorrhage with CC (174)	15	3.4	10	1.9	11	2.1	36	2.4
Intracranial Hemorrhage or Cerebral Infarction (014)	7	1.6	16	3.1	10	1.9	33	2.2
Septicemia, Age > 17 (416)	10	2.2	5	1.0	14	2.7	29	2.0
Circulatory Disorders Except Acute Myocardial Infarction with Cardiac Catheterization and Complex Diagnosis (124)	9	2.0	11	2.1	6	1.2	26	1.7
Circulatory Disorders with Acute Myocardial Infarction and Major Complications, Discharged Alive (121)	5	1.1	9	1.7	10	1.9	24	1.6
Chest Pain (143)	7	1.6	7	1.3	10	1.9	24	1.6
Major Joint and Limb Reattachment Procedures of Lower Extremity (209)	14	3.1	9	1.7	-	-	23	1.5
Kidney and Urinary Tract Infections, Age> 17 with CC (320)	7	1.6	9	1.7	7	1.4	23	1.5
Major Small and Large Bowel Procedures with CC (148)	9	2.0	7	1.3	6	1.2	22	1.5
Nutritional and Miscellaneous Metabolic Disorders, Age > 17 with CC (296)	6	1.3	5	1.0	11	2.1	22	1.5
Percutaneous Cardiovascular Procedure with Drug-Eluting Stent without AMI (527)	6	1.3	16	3.1	-	-	22	1.5
All Others	279	62.4	318	60.9	325	62.7	922	62.0
Total	447	100.0	522	100.0	518	100.0	1,487	100.0

Numbers in parentheses() are the DRG code.
Source: AHCA Detailed Discharge Data, 2004-2006.
Prepared by: WellFlorida Council Inc., 2007.

Appendix B

Union County Resident Focus Group Moderators Guide

Union County Health Needs Assessment Focus Group Moderators Guide

Hello and welcome to our focus group. A focus group is a discussion among people who have something in common. Each of you is here today as a resident of Union County and have unique perspectives on the health of your community. I'd like to thank you for agreeing to join our discussion group today where we will be talking about the health needs of individuals in our community.

My name is _____ and assisting me with this discussion is _____. We are both representing The Union County Health Department Needs Assessment Committee. This committee is working on a Health Needs Assessment Report to help our local policy makers and health care providers focus on health needs that you feel are important.

We are conducting 6 focus groups in Union County. The purpose is to understand what you think are the most pressing health care needs of your community and the factors that influence an individual's health and health care. Health and health care needs are anything that would help you achieve an acceptable quality of life. Your input into this process is extremely important.

To help manage our discussion, I am going to review some guidelines:

- I will be asking you all some questions over the next hour and a half. I encourage each of you to share as much as you feel comfortable. All of your opinions are important to us and this project. Feel free to say what ever you like; there are no right or wrong answers to our questions.
- We ask you to respect what other people in the group say and for you avoid negative comments about other peoples' thoughts or opinions.
- We ask that only one person talk at a time, we do not want to miss anything that anyone says, so it is important we do not talk over one another or break into separate conversations. If you think you might forget your ideas, please write them down. Then you can share them at the next opportunity in our conversation.
- Most importantly, what you say in here today will remain between us. We will not be using your name when we report the results of this study. We also ask that you not share what we talk about today in the group with others outside the group. It is important that we trust each other and that you are comfortable sharing your thoughts.
- We are taping today's meeting. The tape will only be used by our staff to make sure that our written reports are accurate. We do not want to miss any of your comments. Once those reports are complete, we will destroy the tapes.
- As you walked in we handed you a brief questionnaire. This will be used to help describe the discussion group. Please take a minute and complete these questions before we start. We will not be using this information to identify you in anyway.
- If you have a cell phone, please turn them off or put them on vibrate. If you must answer the phone, please do so outside and return as quickly as you can.
- You will be receiving your incentive for participating at the end of the session.

Our session will last about 90 minutes, and we will not be taking a formal break. If you must use the restroom, they are located _____.

Are there any questions about what we're doing today? If there are no additional questions, we'll begin.

QUESTIONS

As a way of getting started and getting to know each other, I would like around the room one at a time. Please tell us your name and how long you have lived in Union County?

Now that we have heard from each of you, I would like to ask some questions for anyone to answer. Please, I ask you to remember to talk one at a time because each one of you have important things to

say and we want to make sure that we hear what you have to say. There are not right or wrong answers; we only want to get your input.

1. Let's suppose I am new to the community, and I need some health information, where would you suggest I go?
2. Where would you suggest I not go?
3. Considering your own experiences, what is your general perspective on healthcare in Union County? **(Prompt: Perspective on the services available in the county and the health of the residents of the county.)**
4. Considering your own experiences, what are some things that have helped improve or maintain the health of you or your family? **(Prompt: types of programs)**
5. What are problems or barriers you see in maintaining or improving you or your family's health? **(Prompt: barriers to care including insurance, cost, access to care primary care/mental health/dental)**
 - a. We often hear that transportation is an issue that impacts accessing needed health care. Is this something that impacts you? **(Prompt: How do you get to and from your appointments?)**
6. Do you or members of your family go outside of the county to receive healthcare? **(Prompt: Where do you go to receive care? What type of care do you receive?)**
7. In order to improve your family's health, what do you need? **(Prompt: Identification of services and resources that could help to improve health.)**
8. What do you think are the most pressing or most serious healthcare needs in Union County? Overall, what would you say is the most important health need we have just come up with? If each of you will tell what you think is most important, we will put a check mark by it.
9. What do you think can be done to address these healthcare needs? **(Prompt: What community groups can work together?)**
10. Do you think the use of tobacco (smoking and smokeless) is a problem in Union County? Do you think it is higher or lower than other parts of the state? Why?
 - a. Do you have any suggestions about what can be done to reduce the number of people who use tobacco in Union County?
11. What is your perspective on how the community members feel about the Union County Health Department? **(Prompt: What do people use their services for? Do community members use the HD services available? Do they know what types of services exist? Why?)**
12. What is your perspective on the role of community members, like yourselves, what role do you play in improving the overall health of Union County?
13. Do you have any additional comments you would like to share about health care in Union County?

I would like to take a few minutes and briefly summarize what we talked about today. **[Provide summary of notes for each question]** Our discussion today was to help us understand how the community feels on the health needs in Union County. Have we missed anything?

Now, if there are no further comments, we would like to thank you all for your participation in this very important project, and please remember to keep everything you have heard today inside this room and among us.

We are now going to come around the room and distribute your incentive for participation.

Again, thank you for participating in this discussion with us. We really appreciate your thoughts and comments.