

Everyone  
Deserves  
the  
Opportunity  
to  
Live  
their  
Healthiest  
Life  
In  
DeSoto  
County



Florida Department of Health  
in DeSoto County

# Health Equity Plan

July 1, 2022 - June 30, 2027

Updated 07/29/2022



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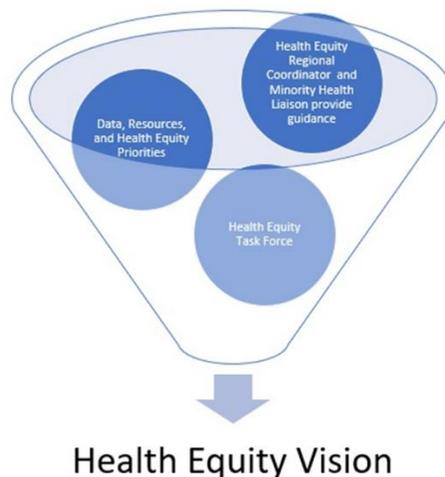
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## I. VISION

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The Department of Health in DeSoto County (DOH-DeSoto) believes that everyone deserves the opportunity to live their healthiest life. The vision of DOH-DeSoto is to provide accessible health care, health education, resources, and opportunities for wellness so that each resident can achieve optimal care and support. Preventative care and lifestyle interventions as well as motivating clients on their health journey will be focuses of our health equity action plan. By working with community partners, DOH-DeSoto will offer clients social support and resources to help clients manage their health by addressing specific barriers that prevent optimal health. The connection between social and economic factors and their direct impact on the risk-factors associated with chronic diseases and conditions is the root of DOH-DeSoto’s health equity work and vision. To achieve this vision the DOH-DeSoto has convened community partners to develop a plan that includes shared definitions, resources, training opportunities, and tools that will inform and educate for change. DOH-Desoto places strong value on cross-sector collaboration, which is a vital component of our work.



**“Everyone Deserves the Opportunity to Live their Healthiest Life in DeSoto County”**

## II. PURPOSE OF THE HEALTH EQUITY PLAN

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**Health Equity is achieved when everyone can attain optimal health.**

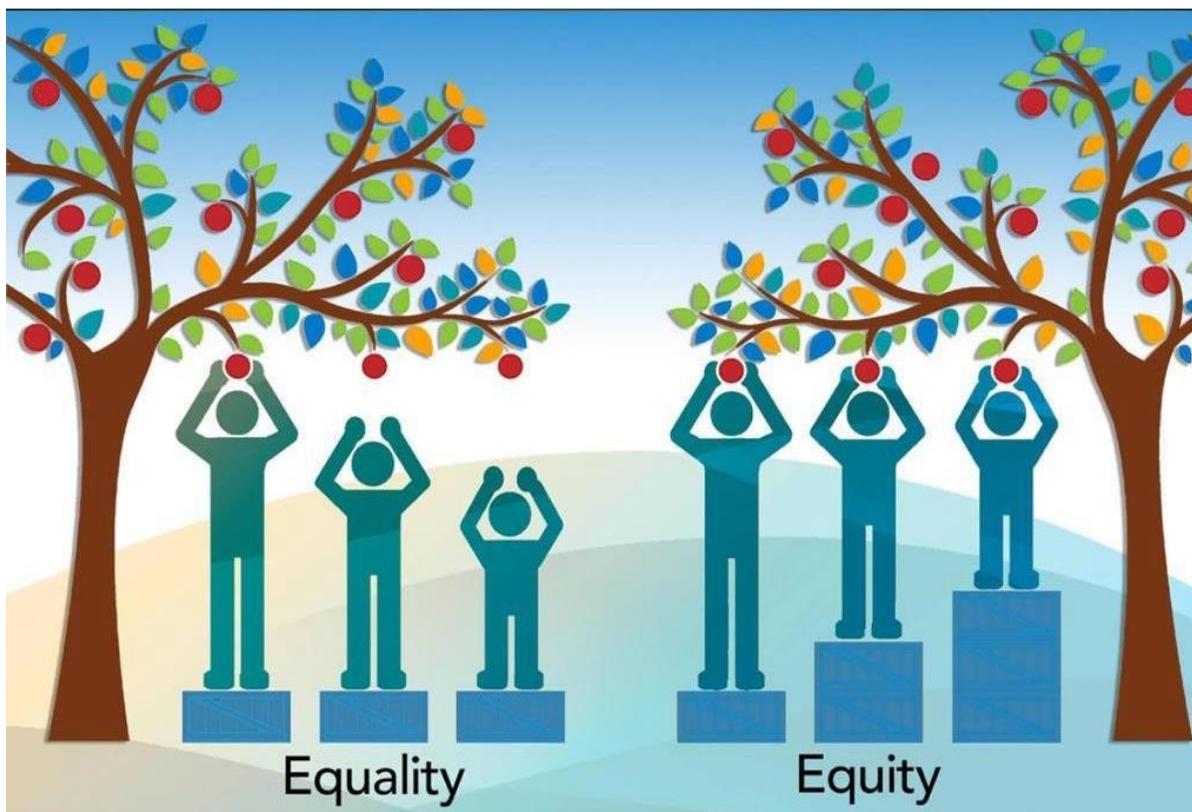
The Florida Department of Health's Office of Minority Health and Health Equity (OMHHE) works with government agencies and community organizations to address the barriers prohibiting populations from reaching optimal health. A focus on health equity means recognizing and eliminating the systemic barriers that result in disparities in various populations' health and wellness. In response to Chapter 2021-117 of the Florida Statute, effective July 1, 2021, each county health department (CHD) has been provided resources to create a Health Equity Plan to address health disparities in their communities.

The Health Equity Plan should guide counties in their efforts to create and improve systems and opportunities to achieve optimal health for all residents, especially priority populations. County organizations have a critical role in addressing the social determinants of health (SDOHs) by fostering multi-sector and multi-level partnerships, conducting surveillance, integrating data from multiple sources, and leading approaches to develop upstream policies and solutions. This plan acknowledges that collaborative initiatives to address the SDOHs are the most effective at reducing health disparities.

The purpose of the Health Equity Plan is to increase health equity within DeSoto County. To develop this plan, DeSoto County health department followed the Florida Department of Health's approach of multi-sector engagement to analyze data and resources, coordinate existing efforts, and establish collaborative initiatives. This plan addresses key SDOH indicators affecting health disparities within DeSoto County. This Health Equity Plan is not a county health department plan; it is a county-wide Health Equity Plan through which the Health Equity Taskforce, including a variety of government, non-profit, and other community organizations, align to address the SDOH impact health and well-being in the county.

### III. DEFINITIONS

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**Health equity** is achieved when everyone can attain optimal health

**Health inequities** are systematic differences in the opportunities groups have to achieve optimal health, leading to avoidable differences in health outcomes.

**Health disparities** are the quantifiable differences, when comparing two groups, on a particular measure of health. Health disparities are typically reported as rate, proportion, mean, or some other measure.

**Equality** each individual or group of people is given the same resources or opportunities.

**Social determinants of health (SDOH)** are the conditions in which people are born, grow, learn, work, live, worship, and age that influence the health of people and communities.

## IV. PARTICIPATION

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Cross-sector collaborations and partnerships are essential components of improving health and well-being. Cross-sector collaboration uncovers the impact of education, health care access and quality, economic stability, social and community context, neighborhood and built environment and other factors influencing the well-being of populations. To improve population health, DOH-DeSoto engaged faith-based leaders, social service organizations, government, and healthcare providers during the community health assessment and health improvement meetings, where achieving health equity by breaking SDOH barriers is an ongoing initiative. Cross-sector partners provide the range of expertise necessary to develop and implement the Health Equity Plan.



## A. Minority Health Liaison

The Minority Health Liaison supports the Office of Minority Health and Health Equity in advancing health equity and improving health outcomes of racial and ethnic minorities and other vulnerable populations through partnership engagement, health equity planning, and implementation of health equity projects to improve social determinants of health. The Minority Health Liaison facilitates health equity discussions, initiatives, and collaborations related to elevating the shared efforts of the county.

**Minority Health Liaison: Heather Smith**

**Minority Health Budget Manager: Cynthia Scott**

## B. Health Equity Team

The Health Equity Team includes individuals that each represent a different program within the CHD. The Health Equity Team explores opportunities to improve health equity efforts within the county health department. Members of the Health Equity Team assess the current understanding of health equity within their program and strategize ways to improve it. The Health Equity Team also relays information and data concerning key health disparities and SDOH in DeSoto to the Health Equity Taskforce. The Minority Health Liaison guides these discussions and the implementation of initiatives. DOH-DeSoto invited staff from different programs and ranks of the Health Department while considering their experience and knowledge to enhance the diversity of the group. The membership of the Health Equity Team is listed below.

Name	Title	Program
Elizabeth Collins	Senior Community Health Nurse	Epi / Primary Care
Gregory Davis	Ops Health Services Representative	Ryan White / Faith Based
William Durrance	Environmental Specialist II	Environmental Health
Mirza Gagot-Rivera	Senior Physician	Primary Care / Chronic Disease

Sylvia Garcia	Human Services Program Supv I	Ryan White Lead Agency
Tina Garcia	Senior Human Services Program Specialist	Healthy Start
Jean Green-Blair	Advanced Practice Registered Nurse	Primary Care / Diabetes Specialist
Tiffany Jones	Biological Scientist	Covid Support
Cynthia Lehman	Senior Public Health Nutritionist Supervisor	Women, Infants, & Children (WIC)
Miriam Morales	Senior Clerk	Frontline Dental
Daniel Morris	Environmental Specialist II	Environmental Health
Thomas Morris	Senior Dentist	School Dental Program
Diana Padron	Human Services Program Analyst	Ryan White
Miriam Padron	Health Support Technician	Primary Clinic

The Health Equity Taskforce met on the below dates during the health equity planning process. Since the Health Equity Plan was completed, the Health Equity Taskforce has continued to meet at least quarterly to track progress.

Meeting Date	Topic/Purpose
October 14, 2021	Community Health Improvement Planning meeting (CHIP meeting) , child welfare, food access, program updates
November 5, 2021	All-staff lunch prioritization exercise
November 9, 2021	Toured Housing Authority
November 19, 2021	Dept. of Children & Families Town Hall
December 3, 2021	Supervisors attended Homeless housing groundbreaking
January 13, 2022	CHIP meeting, HE added to agenda
February 21, 2022	Hunger Screening Provider meeting

April 25, 2022	Health Equity outreach Arcadia Housing Authority
April 8, 2022	Hunger Screening update/ Referrals for services
April 12, 2022	CHIP, HE and program lead updates
February, March, April 2022	Email updates sent to all-employees, in-service SDOH in all DOH-DeSoto programs
July 2021- June 30, 2022	CHIP meetings, CHA prioritization exercises
July 14, 2022	CHIP meeting, HE and program updates

### C. Health Equity Taskforce

The Health Equity Taskforce includes CHD staff and a diverse group of representatives from various organizations that provide services or knowledge to address various SDOH. Collaboration within this group addresses upstream factors to achieve health equity is a topic of discussion at each CHIP meeting. The Health Equity Taskforce led the Community Health Assessment (CHA) process and participated in all prioritization exercises. At each meeting, health equity was a high priority agenda item and the group shared available resources to address the wide variety of SDOHs that are an issue for the rural setting of DeSoto County. The Health Equity Taskforce contributed to the DeSoto County Health Equity Plan and oversaw the design and implementation of projects based on each members area of expertise. The wide span the group member demographics was beneficial in project planning and implementation because the projects were strategically planned to benefit the vulnerable populations. To maintain a robust health equity task force, the members will be reviewed by the team on a quarterly basis to recognize and reflect the diversity of the group and community served. Health Equity Taskforce members are listed below.

Name	Organization	Social Determinant of Health
Alma Ovalle	United Way Suncoast	Social and Community Context, Education Access and Quality
Andrea Doggett	United Way Suncoast	Social and Community Context, Education Access and Quality
Asena Mott	South Florida State College DeSoto County School Board	Education Access and Quality

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Ashley Coone	DeSoto County Commissioner Campaign for Grade Level Reading	Social and Community Context, Education Access and Quality
Asya Shine	Drug Free DeSoto Coalition	Social and Community Context
Becky Mercer	DeSoto Housing Authority	Neighborhood and Built Environment, Economic Stability
Beth Duda	Remake Learning Days, The Patterson Foundation	Social and Community Context
Bobby Bennett	DeSoto County School Board	Education Access and Quality
Clara Alvarez	Catholic Charities / San Juan Bosco Vaccine Coordinator	Neighborhood and Built Environment, Education Access and Quality
Cynthia Lehman	DOH-DeSoto	Healthcare Access and Quality, Education Access and Quality
Cynthia Scott	DOH-DeSoto	Healthcare Access and Quality, Education Access and Quality
David Ramirez	Goodwill	Economic Stability, Social and Community Context
Diana Feo	Heartland CareerSource	Economic Stability
Diana Hernandez	Safe Place and Rape Crisis Center (SPARCC)	Neighborhood and Built Environment
Diana Rhoneelli	Senior Friendship Center	Neighborhood and Built Environment
Dr. Cindy Farris	Florida Gulf Coast University Student Nursing	Education Access and Quality, Healthcare Access and Quality
E. Patricia Collins	DOH-DeSoto	Education Access and Quality, Healthcare Access and Quality
Emily Grant	UF/IFAS Extension Family Nutrition Program	Neighborhood and Built Environment
Gene Jones	YMCA	Education Access and Quality
Gloria Romero	Catholic Charities	Economic Stability

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Gregory Davis	DOH-DeSoto / Faith-based	Neighborhood and Built Environment, Education Access and Quality
Heather Ferjuste	All Faiths Food Bank	Economic Stability, Neighborhood and Built Environment
Jamie Atherton	Family Service Center	Education Access and Quality
Jennifer Bowser	Habitat for Humanity	Economic Stability, Education Access and Quality
Jennifer Neuman	Tidewell Hospice	Social & Community Context
Jodie DeLoach	Tobacco Free DeSoto	Neighborhood and Built Environment
June Walls	J&J Detailing / Juneteenth Coordinator	Social & Community Context
Keith Keene	City of Arcadia Mayor	Neighborhood and Built Environment
Kim Kutch	Department of Children and Families	Economic Stability, Social and Community Context
Kimberly Payne	DOH-DeSoto	Healthcare Access and Quality
Lauri Benson	DeSoto County Social Services	Economic Stability
Mandy Hines	DeSoto County Administrator	Neighborhood and Built Environment
Maria Magowan	The Florida Center	Neighborhood and Built Environment, Education Access and Quality
Maribeth Soderstrom	Heartland Regional Transportation	Neighborhood and Built Environment
MJ Desai	Eckerd Pharmacy	Healthcare Access and Quality
Nathan L Scott	Family Safety Alliance FDOH	Healthcare Access and Quality
Penny Pringle	DOH-DeSoto Administrator	Healthcare Access and Quality, Social and Community Context
Robert Tabor	Charlotte Behavioral Health Network	Healthcare Access and Quality

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Sarah Gualco	Area Agency on Aging for Southwest Florida	Neighborhood and Built Environment
Sarah Hipp	DeSoto Memorial Hospital	Education Access and Quality
Sheriff Potter	DeSoto County Sherriff	Neighborhood and Built Environment
Sofia Gilot	Boys and Girls Club	Education Access and Quality
Sondra Guffey	DeSoto County Economic Development	Neighborhood and Built Environment
Sylvia Garcia	DOH-DeSoto	Healthcare Access and Quality
Terry Stewart	City of Arcadia Administrator	Neighborhood and Built Environment
Tina Garcia	DOH-DeSoto	Education Access and Quality, Healthcare Access and Quality
Vince Sica	DeSoto Memorial Hospital	Education Access and Quality, Healthcare Access and Quality
Will Jackson	Hanley Foundation	Education Access and Quality

The Health Equity Taskforce met on the below dates during the health equity planning process. Since the Health Equity Plan was completed, the Health Equity Taskforce has continued to meet at least quarterly to track progress.

Meeting Date	Organizations	Topic/Purpose
May 13, 2021	Health Equity Taskforce and other CHIP members	Forces of Change exercise
July 15, 2021	Health Equity Taskforce and other CHIP members	Community Health Status Assessment, prioritization activity
January 12, 2022	Patterson Foundation / Campaign for Grade Level Reading (United Way)	Actions to improve grade-level reading
January 13, 2022	Health Equity Taskforce and other CHIP members	Community Health Improvement Planning meeting, Health Equity efforts discussed
February 10, 2022	DeSoto County Chamber of Commerce lunch attendees	Overview of DOH services and Health Equity focus towards SDOH
March 3, 2022	Health Equity Taskforce and other CHIP members	Community Health Assessment review
March 8, 2022	Catholic Charities	Covid Vaccination efforts / Review SDOH barriers

March 24, 2022	Department of Children & Families	Resources available for DeSoto families
April 1, 2022	United Way Community Impact Committee	Financial Stability Funding in DeSoto County
April 7, 2022	United Way	Focus on Alice
April 7, 2022	Re-Make Learning Days, Patterson Foundation, Catholic Charities	MHM Event collaboration
April 14, 2022	Health Equity Taskforce and other CHIP members	Community Health Improvement Planning meeting, Health Equity data review
April 14, 2022	Health Equity Taskforce and other CHIP members	HE review, Back-to-School event preparation
July 14, 2022	Health Equity Taskforce and other CHIP members	CHIP meeting, HE focus, voice of the community

## D. Coalition

The Coalition discussed strategies to improve the health of the community. The strategies focused on the social determinants of health: education access and quality, health care access and quality, economic stability, social and community context, and neighborhood and built environment. Membership includes community leaders working to address each SDOH, as well as any relevant sub-SDOHs along with DeSoto County residents who represent the target population. The Coalition consists of Health Equity Taskforce members that are directly associated with a goal or measure. The coalition members utilize the health improvement meetings to provide updates on current initiatives. Residents of the DeSoto community are invited to provide input on current activities and determine if modifications or a different approach is needed to reach target populations. Community outreach activities include a PACE-EH survey to identify food insecurity, and an overall survey that identifies specific barriers to receiving quality healthcare and a persons interest in making lifestyle changes such as exercise and healthy eating. This collaborative approach enables taskforce members to champion the outreach activities, to ensure feedback from all sectors.

## E. Regional Health Equity Coordinators

There are eight Regional Health Equity Coordinators. These coordinators provide the Minority Health Liaison, Health Equity Team, and Health Equity Taskforce with technical assistance, training, and project coordination.

Name	Region
Carrie Rickman	Emerald Coast
Quincy Wimberly	Capitol
Ida Wright	Northeast
Diane Padilla	North Central
Rafik Brooks	West
Lesli Ahonkhai	Central
Frank Diaz-Gines	Southwest
Kimberly Watts	Southeast

## V. HEALTH EQUITY ASSESSMENT, TRAINING, AND PROMOTION

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### A. Health Equity Assessments

DOH-DeSoto gathered information from residents using a survey assessment at the Minority Health Month event where clients were able to self-report on their health and access to care as well as researched data on healthcare and vaccine accessibility.

To improve health outcomes in Florida, it is critical to assess the knowledge, skills, organizational practices, and infrastructure necessary to address health inequities. Health equity assessments are needed to achieve the following:

- Establish a baseline measure of capacity, skills, and areas for improvement to support health equity-focused activities
- Meet [Public Health Administration Board \(PHAB\) Standards and Measures 11.1.4A](#) which states, “The health department must provide an assessment of cultural and linguistic competence.”
- Provide ongoing measures to assess progress towards identified goals developed to address health inequities

- Guide CHD strategic, health improvement, and workforce development planning
- Support training to advance health equity as a workforce and organizational practice

Currently, the Health Equity Assessment is currently pending approval from the Florida Department of Health Executive Management. As soon as the Assessment is approved, the DOH-DeSoto Health Equity Team will conduct a health equity assessment to examine the capacity and knowledge of DOH-DeSoto staff and community partners to address social determinants of health.

## B. County Health Equity Training

Assessing the capacity and knowledge of health equity, through consistent community discussion-based meetings, helped the Minority Health Liaison understand inter-organizational dynamics are key to adding value to any initiative. Quarterly presentations and group share opportunities using a Microsoft Teams platform, brought community partners and DOH-staff together to better identify gaps in service or access to care. On-going training for the Health Equity Taskforce, the Coalition, and other county partners is consistent with DOH-DeSoto culture and community involvement.

Below are the dates, SDOH training topics, and organizations who attended training.

Date	Topics	Organization(s) receiving trainings
January 13, 2022	Hunger Screening DOH-DeSoto clients to identify food insecurity and needed referrals	CHIP meeting attendees
January 13, 2022	Transportation Mobility Presentation on registering clients for rides	CHIP meeting attendees
May 19, 2022	Health Equity, Minority Health, and COVID-19	DOH attendees

## C. County Health Department Health Equity Training

DOH-DeSoto recognizes that ongoing training in health equity and cultural

competency are critical for creating a sustainable health equity focus. All current and onboarding DOH-DeSoto employees complete the *Cultural Awareness: Introduction to Cultural Competency* and *Addressing Health Equity: A Public Health Essential* training during the new employee orientation process. In addition, regular training to staff on health equity and cultural competency is achieved by including this measure as a performance expectation for all. The training is recorded below.

Date	Topics	Number of Staff in Attendance
2017 - present	FL TRAIN Health Equity Training Plan Cultural Awareness: Introduction to Cultural Competency and Addressing Health Equity: A Public Health Essential	All-staff completed to date

### D. Minority Health Liaison Training

The Office of Minority Health and Health Equity and the Health Equity Regional Coordinator provide training and technical support to the Minority Health Liaison on topics such as: the health equity planning process and goals, facilitation and prioritization techniques, reporting requirements, and taking a systems approach to address health disparities. The Minority Health Liaison training is recorded below.

Date	Topics
November 3, 2022	SnapEd Civil Rights Training
Monthly	Minority Health Liaison (MHL) meetings / Southwest MHL meetings
March 18, 2022	ClearPoint training
March 29-30, 2022	OMHHE Team, health equity strategic process planning tools and resources
April 14, 2022	True Colors training, Department of Children and Families (DCF)
May 26, 2022	Seven (7) Basic Quality Tools for Process Improvement
June 6, 2022	DeSoto EOC: Hurricane Tabletop Exercise
July 8, 2022	Hope Florida event discussion

July 19, 2022	Plan corrections and updates with Frank Diaz
July 25, 2022	MHL Onboarding

## E. National Minority Health Month Promotion

On April 30, DOH-Desoto celebrated Minority Health Month with a Health Equity event in conjunction with the Remake learning day at the San Juan Bosco community center. The Suncoast Remake Learning Days is part of a national campaign across the U.S. which includes a variety of hands-on learning activities. The Patterson Foundation and the Suncoast Campaign for Grade Level Reading are launching this opportunity in the DeSoto community.

This is a multi-cultural event that will brought bring out children and their families, so we are aiming to have information from our DOH programs along with other community partners who provided services to specifically address some of the contributing factors that prevent everyone having the same opportunities to achieve good health. Some of the information provided was:

### **What are Social Determinants of Health?**

Social determinants of health (SDOH) are conditions in the places where people live, learn, work, and play that affect a wide range of health risks and outcomes. Overall, SDOH are the factors that prevent people from treating health disparities such as diabetes and other chronic diseases. The SDOH that directly affect a person’s ability to manage or prevent chronic disease other health disparities in DeSoto County include lack of transportation, lack of employment, access to education, food insecurity, and more.

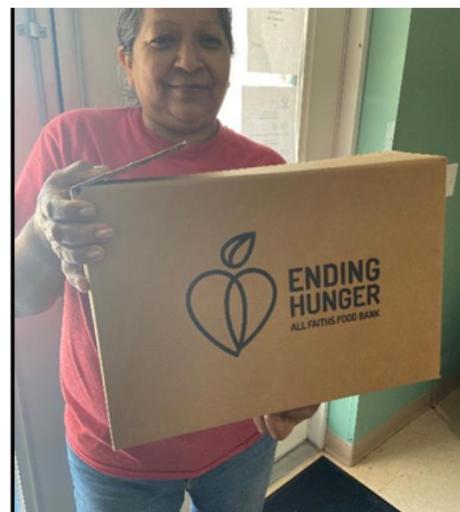
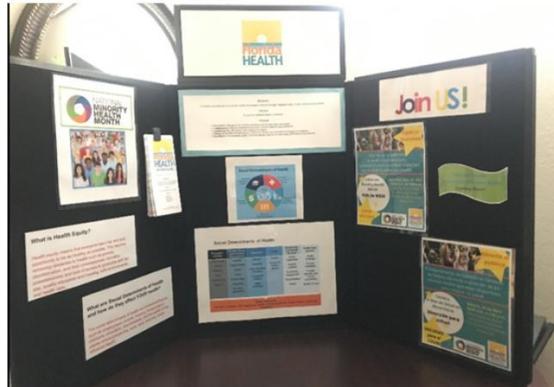
### **What are we doing to help?**

DOH-DeSoto along with other community partners are determined to WIPE OUT the SDOH in our community by creating a resource guide that will provide residents with a quick look at who to contact for resources such as a free or low-cost ride to the store, free or low-cost medications for chronic diseases, a food pantry, a location that helps with Social Security applications, etc. We will have this guide ready to distribute at the event.

DOH-Desoto will also distribute a survey at the event to identify COVID-19

vaccination and prevention behaviors, food insecurity, transportation challenges, and other factors that prevent health equity. The survey will identify risk factors that would qualify for education through participation in behavior modification to address specific disparities. DOH-DeSoto will distribute various exercise equipment to residents who would like to make lifestyle changes.

- COVID-19 vaccines will be available inside for everyone
- DOH-programs and other community partners will share available services
- Catholic Charities in partnership with Remake Learning Days will host a “grow your own herb garden” activity, for children to plant a mini herb garden
- Fresh produce boxes will be given to everyone
- Reinforcement items such as salad bowls and measuring cups will be distributed to promote healthy eating
- The School District of DeSoto County Bulldog Bus will be parked to provide tutoring and reading activities



Open to Everyone

The Florida Department of Health in DeSoto County invites you to learn what local resources are available to better your health!

**Celebrate Minority Health Month**  
**FUN for KIDS!**

**COVID VACCINES**

**Saturday, April 30, 2022**  
**10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.**  
Casa San Juan Bosco  
Community Center  
2358 SE Arnold Andrews  
Arcadia, FL

NATIONAL MINORITY HEALTH MONTH

Florida HEALTH DeSoto County



## Minority Health Month Celebration April 30, 2022

## VI. PRIORITIZING A HEALTH DISPARITY

The Health Equity Taskforce reviewed data from the Community Health Assessment (CHA) and the Local Public Health Assessment (LPHSA) from that was completed in 202, to prioritize a disparity. Utilizing data from multiple sources including CDC, the Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance system (BRFSS), the Census Bureau, United Way 211 data, and Florida Charts.

### Key Findings of the Community Survey

The top five most important health concerns in DeSoto County were: access to primary care, access to specialty care, mental health, diabetes, and not enough doctors. We were able to do a comparison to the top five health concerns from the 2017 survey. Access to specialty care, not enough doctors, and diabetes were in the top five for both 2017 and 2020.

Survey 2020		Survey 2017
Access to primary care		Access to specialty care
Access to specialty care		Obesity
Mental health		Cancer
Diabetes		Not enough doctors
Not enough doctors		Diabetes

### Prioritization of Priority Areas

During the July 15, 2021, DOH-DeSoto Community Health Improvement (CHIP) meeting, the group reviewed priority areas that were identified in the Florida State Health Improvement Plan (FSHIP): health equity, maternal and child health, immunization, injury, safety & violence, healthy weight, nutrition &

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physical activity, behavioral health (includes mental illness and substance abuse), sexually transmitted diseases (STDs, includes other diseases), chronic diseases & conditions (includes tobacco-related illness and cancer), and Alzheimer’s disease and related dementias. Along with the FSHIP priority areas, the group reviewed two additional topics from the 2021 Community Health Assessment. The additional topics were social determinants of health and neighborhood & built environment.

Mentimeter was used to aid in the prioritization. Each priority area was listed along with two statements, importance to the community and ability to create change as a group. The CHIP group was asked to rate these statements in conjunction of the priority on a scale of 1 to 5, with 1 being low and 5 being high.

Priority Area	Importance to Community	Ability to Create Change	Average Score
Social Determinants of Health	4.83	3.5	4.17
Healthy Weight, Nutrition, and Physical Activity	4.25	4	4.13
Immunization and Influenza	4.36	3.72	4.05
Maternal and Child Health	4.33	3.67	4.00
Health Equity	4.64	3.27	3.95
Injury, Safety, and Violence	4.54	3.00	3.77
Behavioral Health	4.33	3.00	3.67
Chronic Diseases and Conditions	4.33	3.00	3.67
Neighborhood and Built Environment	4.50	2.83	3.67
Sexually Transmitted Diseases (STDs)	3.18	3.09	3.14
Alzheimer’s Disease and Related Dementias	3.64	2.27	2.95

Using key findings identified in a community wide survey, the Health Equity Team decided to work on diabetes in the Health Equity Plan by mobilizing community partnerships to identify and solve health problems. Prevention care will address those within that population who are overweight or diagnosed with obesity or pre-diabetes in DeSoto. Education level, income, access to care, physical inactivity, obesity, and food insecurity are risk factors in this disparity. Identifying SDOH

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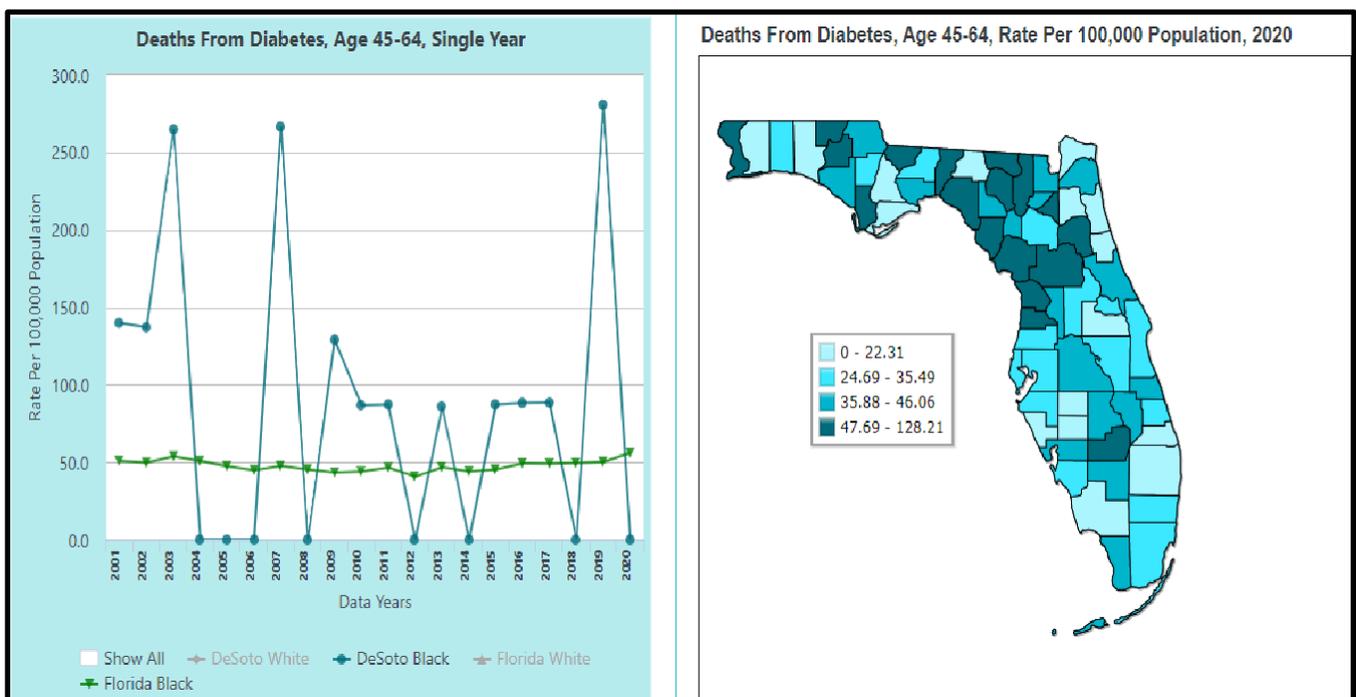
barriers to clients' optimal health and addressing specific needs of priority populations is our goal.

Moving forward, DOH-DeSoto will focus on preventive care and promoting lifestyle interventions including nutritional and exercise education, community engagement, and psychoeducation through motivational interviewing and providing resources on coping skills to client population.

### Priority Population Review and Comparison

The Health Equity Team identified and reviewed diabetes disparity data in DeSoto County. Data was pulled from Florida Charts and Florida Agency for Health Care Administration (AHCA), Center for Disease Control (CDC), and a data analysis conducted by the State of Florida on the health status of people living with disabilities across all 67 counties.

The following health disparities were identified in DeSoto: preventive care and management of care for non-Hispanic African American males aged 45 and up, diagnosed with type 2 diabetes or pre-diabetes.



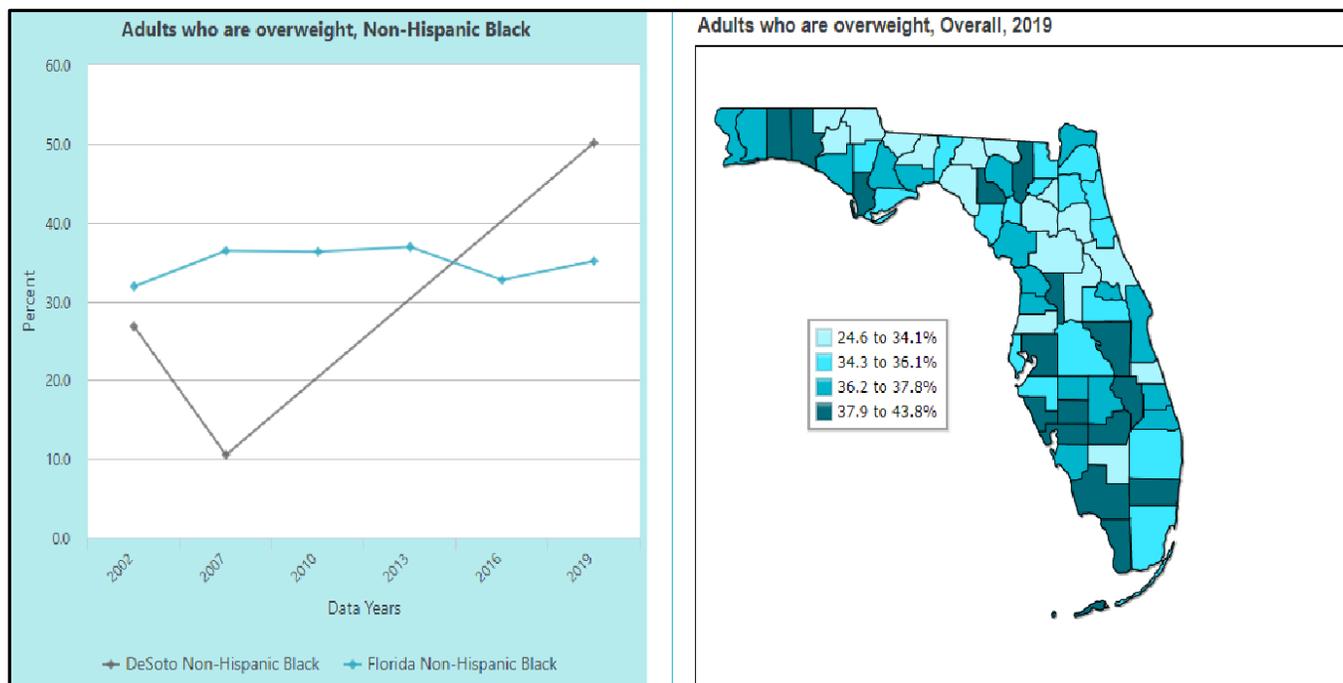
Deaths From Diabetes - Florida Health CHARTS - Florida Department of Health ([flhealthcharts.gov](http://flhealthcharts.gov))

DeSoto County's Non-Hispanic Black males ages 45-64 were above the Florida average in 2020. In DeSoto, (50%) of the Non-Hispanic Black adults were

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overweight in 2019 compared to the DeSoto County White population (43.2%), and DeSoto County Hispanic population (26.5%). Early prevention efforts in managing diabetes may be key in order to reach optimal treatment outcomes. This data shows information on the priority population.



Florida Behavioral Risk Factor (BRFSS) Data - Florida Health CHARTS - Florida Department of Health (flhealthcharts.gov)

A 2022 overview of the Quality-of-Life measures show that the prevalence of diabetes in DeSoto County is (15%) compared to (9%) for Florida. The number of days for poor or fair health and poor physical days per month are higher in DeSoto County than Florida. The COVID-19 age-adjusted mortality rate of (89) for Desoto County is significantly higher than (56) for Florida.

2022 County Health Ranking		
Quality of Life Measures	DeSoto County	Florida
Poor or fair health	31%	18%
Poor physical health days (days per month)	5.7	4
Poor mental health days (days per month)	5.4	4.5
COVID-19 age-adjusted mortality	89	56
Frequent physical distress	19%	12%

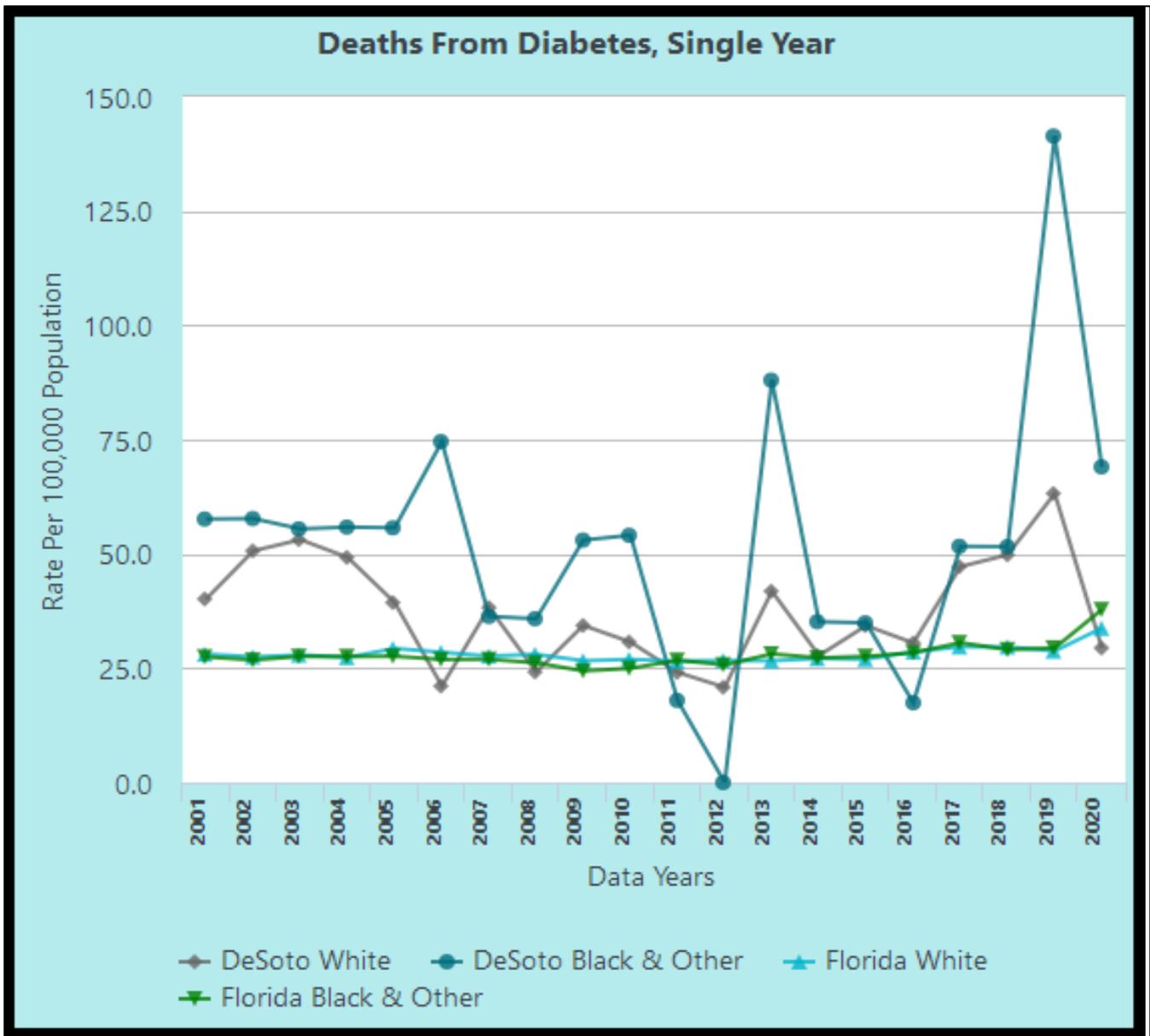
# DOH-DeSoto County

## Health Equity Plan

Frequent mental distress	18%	14%
Diabetes prevalence	15%	9%

DeSoto County, Florida | County Health Rankings & Roadmaps

In 2020, the rate per 100,000 population of Deaths From Diabetes (All) in DeSoto County was (35.7) compared to Florida at (34.7). Since the oldest age at death varies, an ending age of 999 is used to retrieve all records up to and including the oldest age.

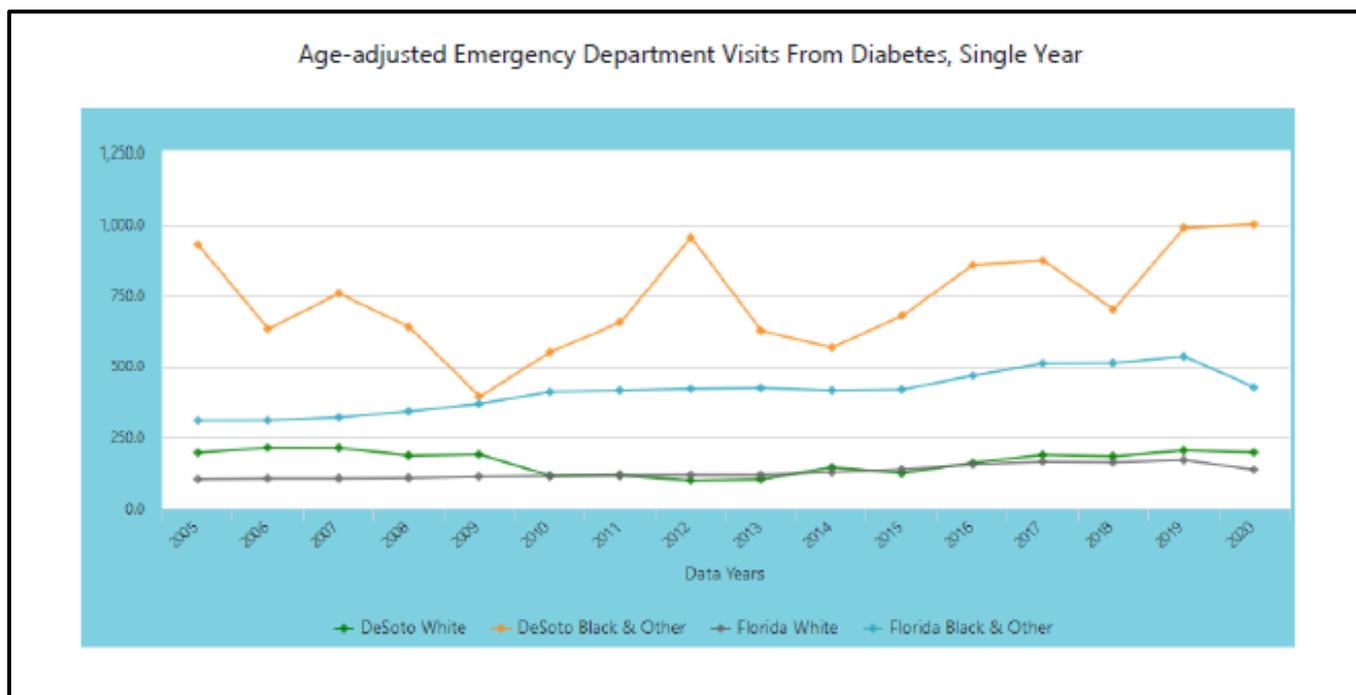


Deaths From Diabetes - Florida Health CHARTS - Florida Department of Health (flhealthcharts.gov)

## DOH-DeSoto County

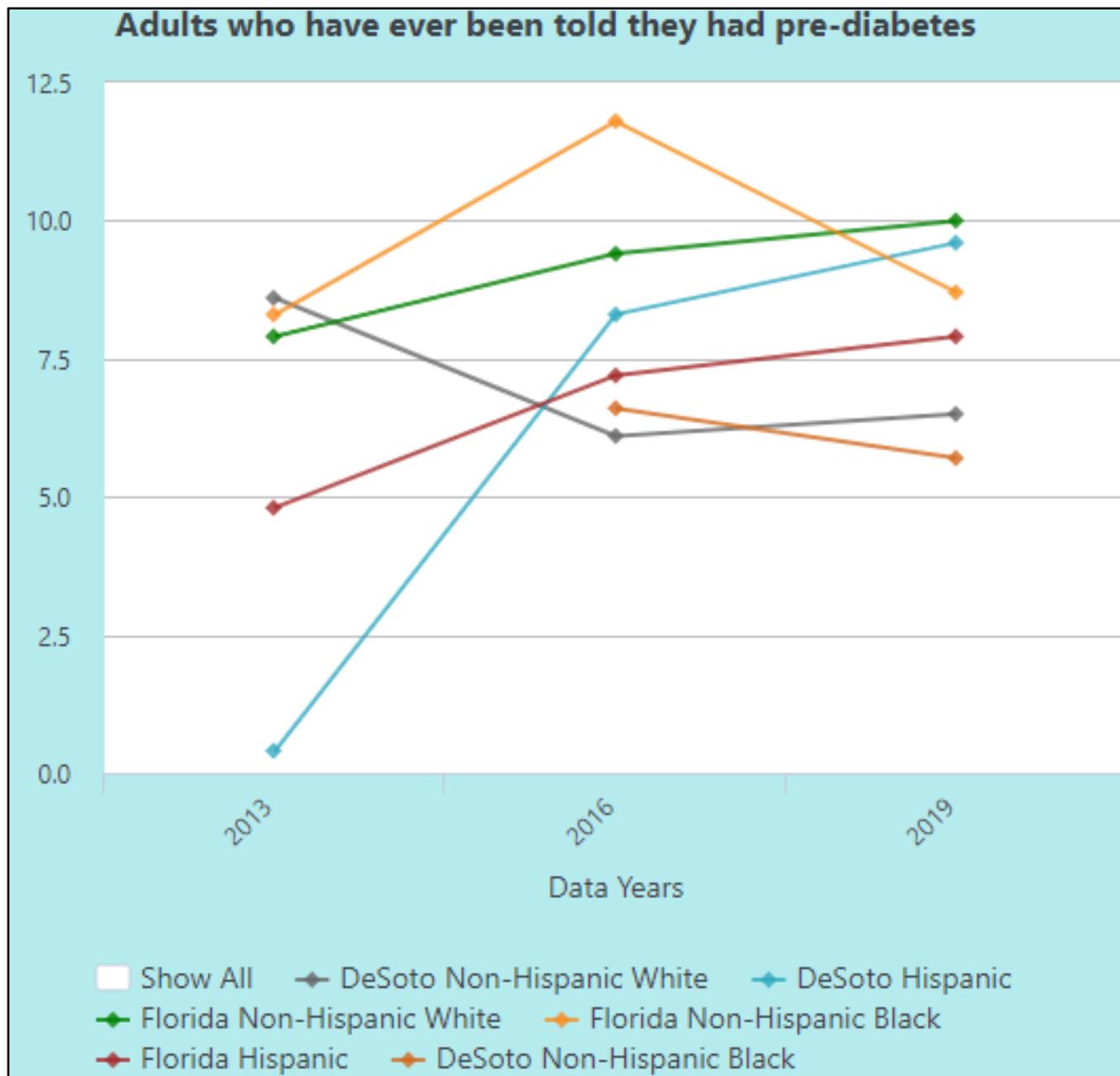
### Health Equity Plan

Diabetes and its complications are preventable. Emergency room visits due to diabetes indicates uncontrolled blood sugar which may lead to premature death, years of potential life lost, disability, lost productivity, and high medical costs. In 2020, the age-adjusted rate per 100,000 of Emergency Department Visits From Diabetes in DeSoto County was (999.7) for the Desoto Black & other population, compared to Florida at (425.1).



Emergency Department Visits From Diabetes - Florida Health CHARTS – Florida

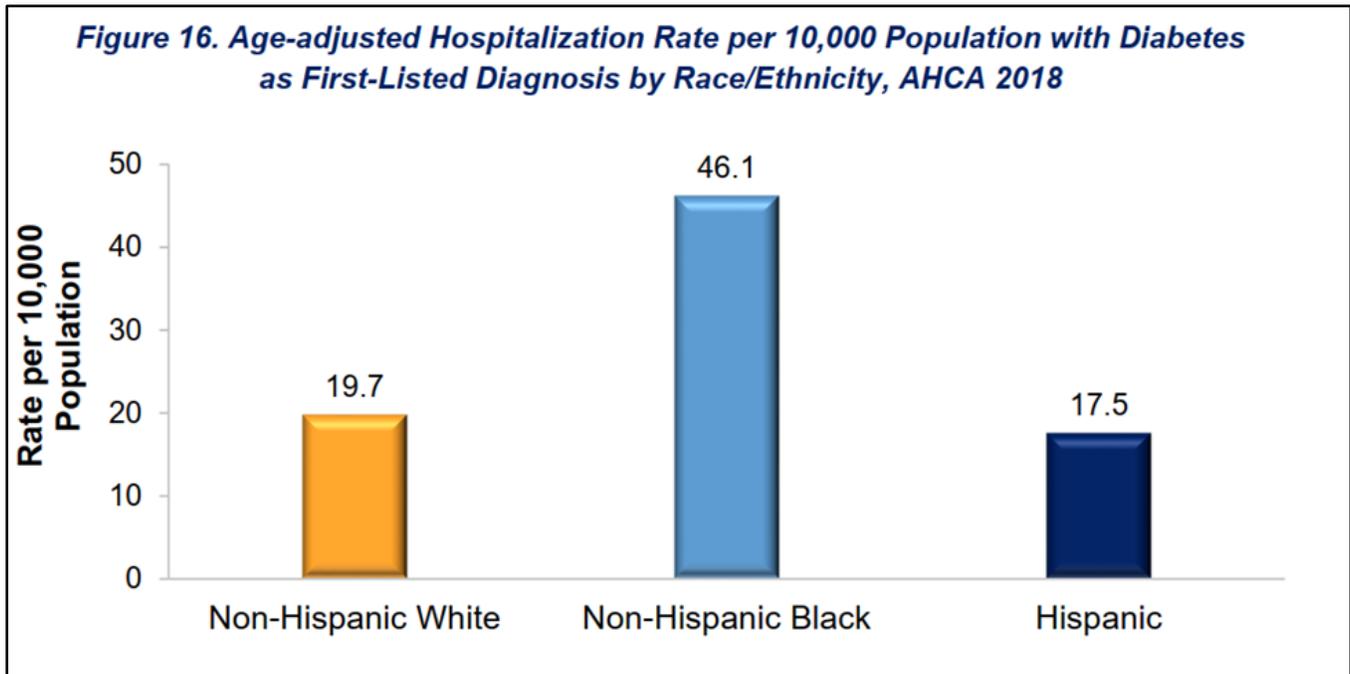
Non-Hispanic Black population had the highest minority adult type 2 diabetes diagnosis rate in DeSoto at (16.7%) and the client population between the ages 45-64 is (16.9%) above the Florida rate. The client population ages 65 and up in DeSoto had a (28.5%) rate also above the Florida rate. Men in DeSoto have a (12.6%) overall rate. DeSoto DOH may be able to achieve optimal client outcomes within the target disparity by addressing their SDOH barriers included in the report as well as providing opportunities for education on self-management and lifestyle interventions such as exercise and diet changes pertinent to diabetes treatment and prevention.



[Florida Behavioral Risk Factor \(BRFSS\) Data - Florida Health CHARTS - Florida Department of Health \(flhealthcharts.gov\)](https://flhealthcharts.gov)

Evidence for disparity, not county specific but identifies the prevalence of diabetes in our priority population:

Non-Hispanic Black in Florida have the highest hospitalization rates due to diabetes.



Florida Diabetes Advisory Council - 2021 Legislative Report

Inpatient hospitalizations, discharged from civilian, non-federal hospitals located in Florida, where diabetes was the principal diagnosis. Diabetes and its complications are preventable. Hospitalizations due to diabetes indicates uncontrolled blood sugar which may lead to premature death, years of potential life lost, disability, lost productivity and high medical costs. In 2020, the rate per 100,000 of Hospitalizations From Diabetes in DeSoto County was (263.8) compared to Florida at (239.8). DeSoto County is in the third quartile for this measure which means that relative to other counties in Florida, the rate per 100,000 of Hospitalizations From Diabetes is less in about half of the counties, and more in about one quarter of the counties.

Additional data gathering is necessary in the county to collect health information for American Indian and Alaska Natives, Asian, Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander.

### Desoto County Hospitalizations From Diabetes, Single Year (2020)



Hospitalizations From Diabetes - Florida Health CHARTS - Florida Department of Health | CHARTS (flhealthcharts.gov)

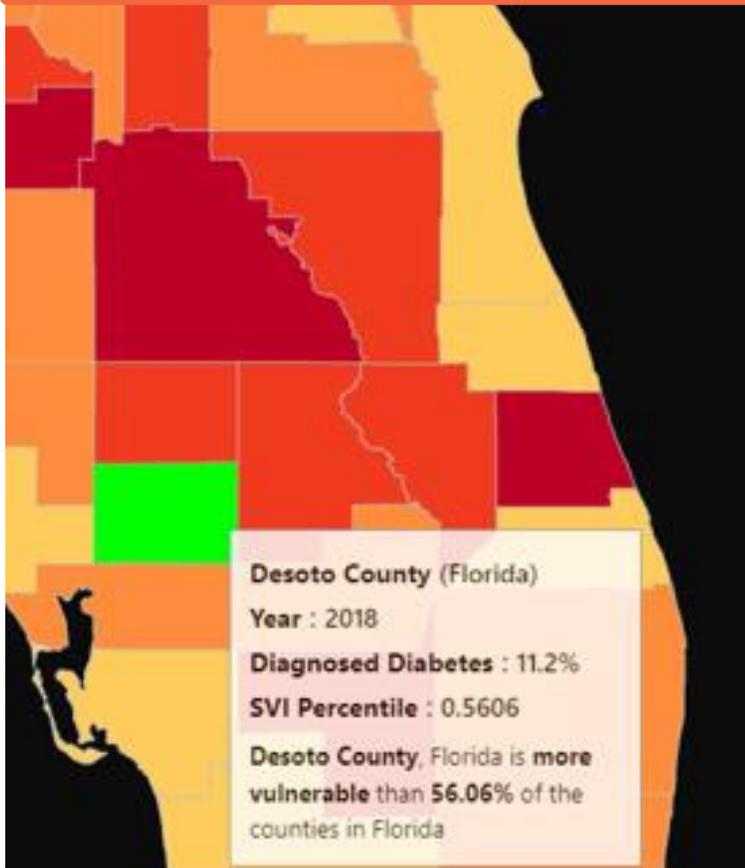
### Data Comparison of People Living With At Least 1 Disability

The data reviewed shows a significant difference with diabetes related and overall general health metrics among both people with at least one disability and people with no disabilities in DeSoto County as of June 2022. The proportion of people with a disability who have diabetes was (12%) compared to (9%) of people with no disability. People with a disability did experience a significantly higher mean number of physical health days that were not good (11.66 days), compared to people without a disability (1.26 days).

Source: Knowli Data Science and the FSU Claude Pepper Center Faculty, 2022

#### Diagnosed Diabetes -

Florida, Natural Breaks, Social Vulnerability Index (SVI), Household Composition & Disability (Overall Household Composition & Disability)



DeSoto County is more vulnerable than 56.06% of the counties in Florida.

Social vulnerability refers to the potential negative effects on communities caused by external stresses on human health. Such stresses include natural or human-caused disasters, or disease outbreaks. Reducing social vulnerability can decrease both human suffering and economic loss.

<https://www.atsdr.cdc.gov/placeandhealth/svi/index.html>

## LGBTQ+ Population

Information regarding the LGBTQ+ population was not available for our evaluation at the county level. We were able to access information from the research by the UCLA School of Law William Institute titled, “A Portrait of LGBT Adults in Southwest”. This research estimated the number of LGBTQ adults in Southwest Florida for five (5) counties by multiplying the percentage of 2012-2017 Gallup respondents identifying as LGBT. The Percentage is (3.4%; 95% CI [2.8%, 4.0%]) and rounding to the nearest 1,000.

The total population in DeSoto as per the Census 2020 was 33,976 and, using

the 3.4% and rounding formula of the research, we have an estimate of 1,000 residents. Information for other counties for comparison purposes.

- 5,134 in Charlotte
- 9,955 in Collier
- 375 in Glades
- 964 in Hendry
- 19,436 in Lee

Again, these are approximations based on the numbers provided in the research mentioned above. The county will look at other data, like the BRFSS reports, to expand the data collection efforts for this population. The study also highlights the following: LGBT adults in Southwest Florida, while somewhat younger, on average, than non-LGBT adults, are similar in many ways to their heterosexual, cisgender (non-transgender) peers. After taking age into consideration, LGBT and non-LGBT adults are similar on socioeconomic status, military service, health insurance coverage, self-rated health, and other indicators of health.

- The majority (66.1%) of LGBT adults are in the labor force.
- One in three (35.2%) LGBT adults is poor or near poor- earning less than about \$32,000 per year for a family of two.
- Nearly one in five (19.7%) LGBT adults did not have enough money to buy food that they or their family needed in the prior year.
- Almost one in five (17.3%) LGBT adults lacks health insurance.
- Differences between LGBT and non-LGBT adults include:
- Being less likely to be raising a child (16.5% versus 28.2%, respectively; parenting rates are similar for LGBT and non-LGBT women and Latino/as),
- More likely to be Latino/a (30.9% versus 19.2%, respectively),
- More likely to report a lifetime diagnosis of high cholesterol (33.1% versus 29.5%, respectively) and/or depression (24.9% versus 13.5%,

respectively),

- More likely to be a current smoker (28.4% versus 16.6%, respectively; results were marginally significant after taking age into consideration).

The reports provide recommendations that the Health Equity Task Force found interesting for future action. “Given the large proportion of LGBT adults that experience poverty and food insecurity, as well health risks and poor health (e.g., overweight and obesity, daily activity limitations, smoking, high cholesterol, lifetime depression), the following actions are recommended:

- Work to ensure that LGBT adults are accessing poverty reduction and food security programs.
- Investigate causes of high rates of depression as well as high rates of smoking.
- Work to ensure access to competent health care, including behavioral health services, for Southwest Florida’s diverse LGBT community. Given the large number of people of a minority heritage in the area, competent care should also reflect adversity and opportunities to promote health along the lines of ethnicity and ensure access to linguistically appropriate services as needed.
- Support health promotion, including prevention and intervention efforts, that incorporate LGBT people starting in adolescence. This includes mental health promotion and smoking prevention and cessation.
- Conduct research with youth and conduct further research with adults to explore topics not assessed in the Gallup Daily Tracking Survey (e.g., housing stability, discrimination experiences, acceptance, violence victimization, current mental health status, community priorities) in a larger sample that will support examination of results separately by sex and gender identity and sexual orientation, race-ethnicity, and age.

## VII. SDOH DATA

Social Determinants of Health (SDOHs) are conditions in the places where people live, learn, work, and play that affect a wide range of health and quality-of-life risks and outcomes. The SDOHs can be broken into the following categories: education access and quality, health care access and quality, neighborhood and built environment, social and community context, and economic stability. The Health Equity Team identified multiple SDOHs that impact diabetes.

They are listed below.



**Why some do better than others**  
**SOCIAL DETERMINANTS OF HEALTH**

1. Safe housing, transportation, and neighborhoods
2. Racism, discrimination, and violence
3. Education, job opportunities, and income
4. Access to nutritious foods and physical activity opportunities
5. Polluted air and water
6. Language and literacy skills

## A. Education Access and Quality

- Education Access and Quality Data for DeSoto County



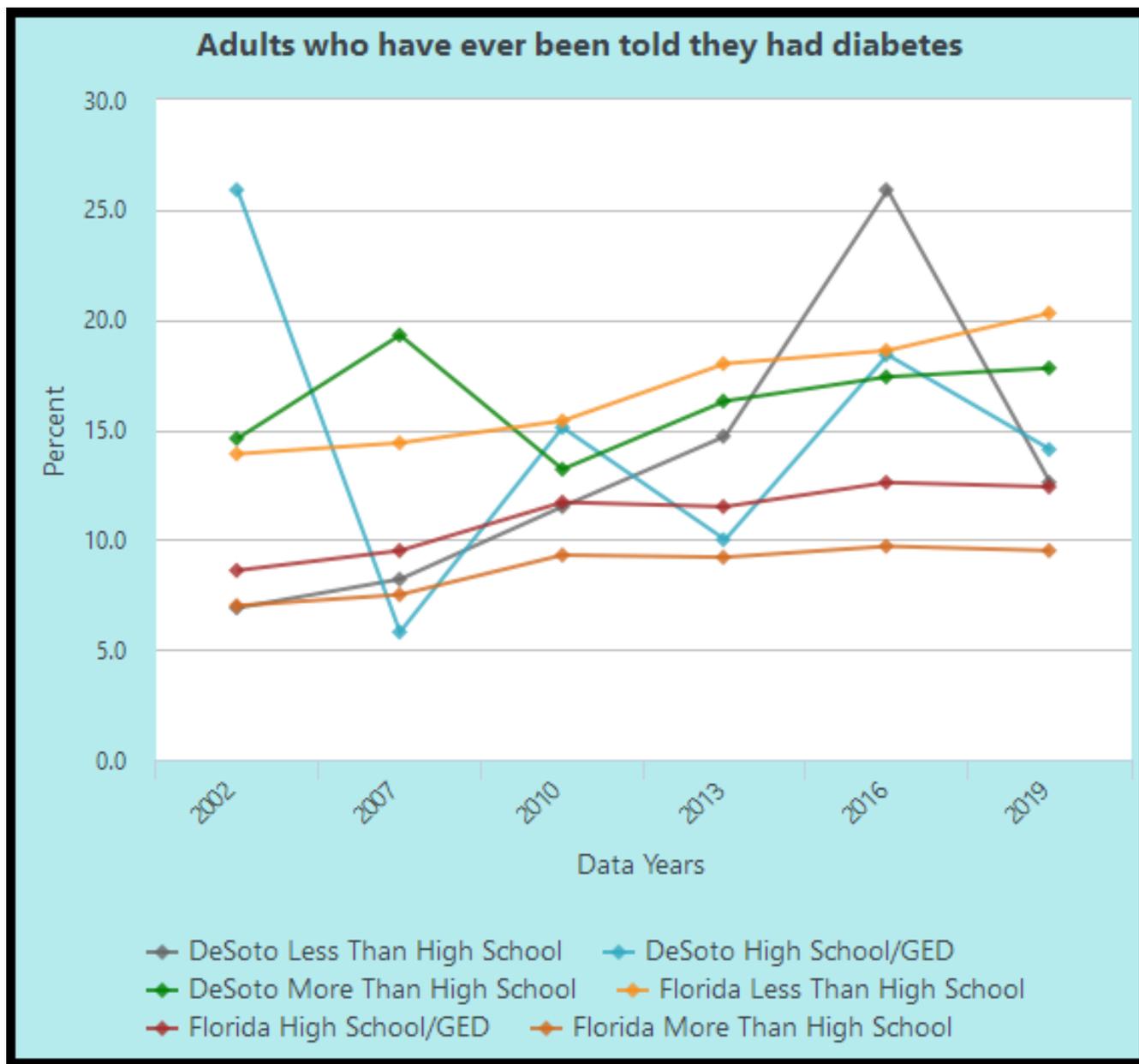
### High School Graduation Rate by Race and Economic Status

2018-19	All race/origin	All Economic Status	398	342	-56 or -14%	244	71%	61%
		Economically disadvantaged	223	181	-42 or -19%	118	65%	53%
		Not-economically disadvantaged	175	161	-14 or -8%	126	78%	72%
	White	All Economic Status	151	118	-33 or -22%	90	76%	60%
		Economically disadvantaged	72	45	-27 or -38%	30	67%	42%
		Not-economically disadvantaged	79	73	-6 or -8%	60	82%	76%
	Black	All Economic Status	53	47	-6 or -11%	33	70%	62%
		Economically disadvantaged	37	31	-6 or -16%	21	68%	57%
		Not-economically disadvantaged	16	16		12	75%	75%
Hispanic	All Economic Status	184	169	-15 or -8%	114	67%	62%	
	Economically disadvantaged	108	100	-8 or -7%	63	63%	58%	
	Not-economically disadvantaged	76	69	-7 or -9%	51	74%	67%	
Asian	All Economic Status							

Desoto County Adjusted High School Graduation Rate | tallahassee.com

The Black or African American, economically disadvantaged high school graduation rate is (68%) and the Hispanic economically disadvantaged high school graduation rate is (63%) compared to Desoto’s overall graduation rate of (71%) and economically disadvantaged rate at (65%). The not-economically disadvantaged population overall has the highest high school graduation rate of (78%) in DeSoto. Lack of a high school diploma impacts the Black or African American and Hispanic, economically disadvantaged populations by increasing the percentage of adults who have ever been told they have diabetes as noted in

the chart below. To improve diabetes, Desoto County is addressing ethnic disparities related to achieving a high school diploma.



Florida Behavioral Risk Factor (BRFSS) Data - Florida Health CHARTS - Florida Department of Health (flhealthcharts.gov)

The above chart shows the number of adults with diabetes according to education level. In 2021, the percentage of individuals with no high school diploma in DeSoto County was (23%) and (43.7%) obtained a high school

diploma or GED. 18.5% of the population in DeSoto attained some college or an associate degree and 12.2% obtained a bachelor’s degree or higher.

Increasing high school graduation rates will positively impact employment rates and help vulnerable populations gain job stability, higher income, access to care and healthy food. Impoverished populations are at risk of food insecurity and lack of access to healthy food and healthcare.

- The impact of education access and quality on diabetes

<b>Education Access and Quality</b>		
<b>SDOH</b>	<b>Vulnerable Populations Impacted</b>	<b>How the SDOH Impacts Diabetes</b>
Literacy and Language	Immigrants, Black or African American, low-income, residents who speak English less than very well clients, elderly, foreign-born residents	Having limited English proficiency in the United States can be a barrier to accessing health care services and understanding health information related to diabetes. People with higher levels of education are more likely to be healthier and live longer and less likely to be obese.
Early Childhood Development	Immigrants, Black or African American, low-income, residents who speak English less than very well clients	The stress of living in poverty can also affect children’s brain development, making it harder for them to do well in school.  Early Childcare and Education (ECE) settings are an important point of intervention for the prevention of chronic disease, as enrolled children typically receive several meals and snacks while in care, accounting for a large proportion of their daily caloric intake. Thus, this is one of the best opportunities for children to

		build a foundation for healthy nutrition and physical activity. In addition, less access to quality education is correlated with lower socioeconomic status, which contribute to poorer health outcomes, including higher rates of obesity and diabetes.
School	Low-income families of all ethnicities	Children from low-income families, children with disabilities, and children who routinely experience forms of social discrimination — like bullying — are more likely to struggle with math and reading. They’re also less likely to graduate from high school or go to college. This means they’re less likely to get safe, high-paying jobs and more likely to have health problems like heart disease, diabetes, and depression.
Higher Education	Immigrants, Black or African American, low-income, residents who speak English less than very well, elderly, foreign-born residents	People who live in places with poorly performing schools, and many families can’t afford to send their children to college. People with lower educational attainment are less likely to secure higher paying jobs in the future, have access to quality health insurance coverage, ability to afford healthy foods, pay for medicines, and ability to afford housing in highly walkable neighborhoods with access to green space, parks, and recreational resources.

## B. Economic Stability

- Economic stability data for Desoto County

Low-income and impoverished client populations are negatively impacted by limited access to healthcare and education, limited access to employment and income stability, healthy food, self-management interventions, and

## DOH-DeSoto County

### Health Equity Plan

resources. Poverty is one of the main barriers to optimal treatment and management of care of the diabetic and prediabetic populations in DeSoto. As seen in the data, DeSoto income levels are lower than the Florida average.

Income & Poverty		DeSoto County, Florida
Population Estimates, July 1 2021, (V2021)		34,408
<b>PEOPLE</b>		
<b>Income &amp; Poverty</b>		
Median household income (in 2020 dollars), 2016-2020		\$36,360
Per capita income in past 12 months (in 2020 dollars), 2016-2020		\$18,193
Persons in poverty, percent		20.8%

U.S. Census Bureau QuickFacts: DeSoto County, Florida



[https://datausa.io/profile/geo/desoto-county-fl#income\\_ethnicity](https://datausa.io/profile/geo/desoto-county-fl#income_ethnicity)

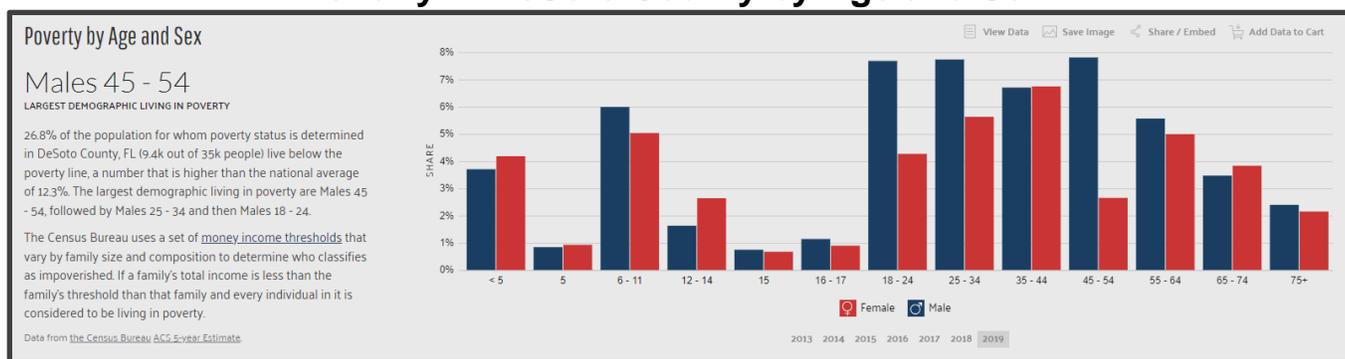
### Highest Average Salaries By Race & Ethnicity In Florida

The graph above shows the race-and ethnicity-based wage disparities in the 5 most common occupations in Florida by number of full-time employees. In 2019, the highest paid race/ethnicity of Florida workers was Asian( \$58,663 ± \$3,508).

These workers were paid 1.14 times more than White workers (\$51,467 ± \$590) who made the second highest salary of any race/ethnicity in Florida. The third highest paid workers were the Native Hawaiian and other Pacific Islander (\$41,471 ± \$18,259).

The PUMS dataset is not available at the County level, so we are showing data for Florida.

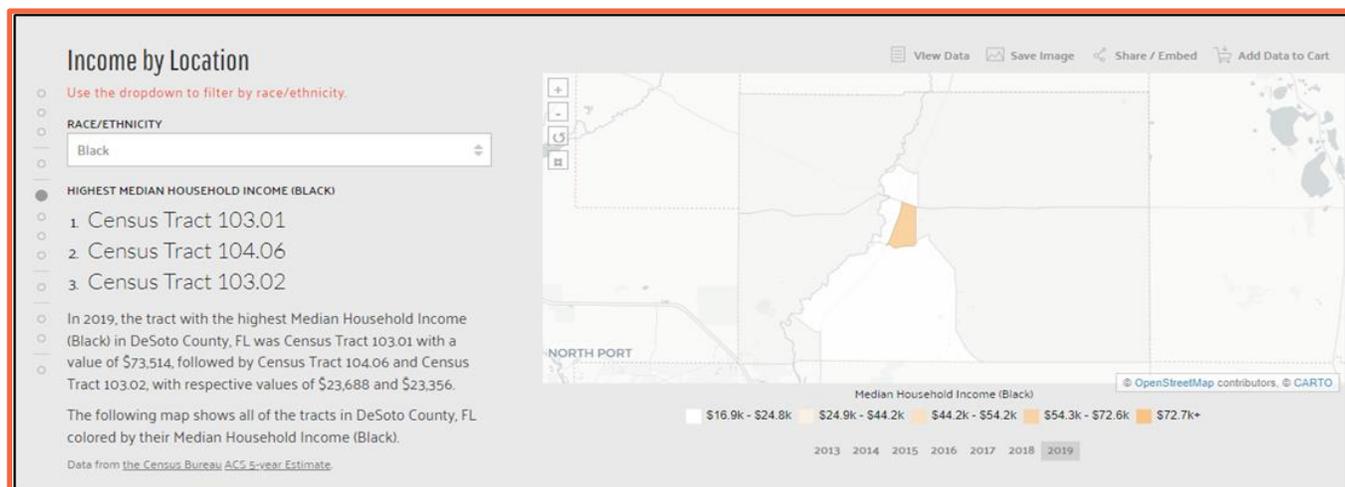
### Poverty in DeSoto County by Age and Sex



DeSoto County, FL | Data USA

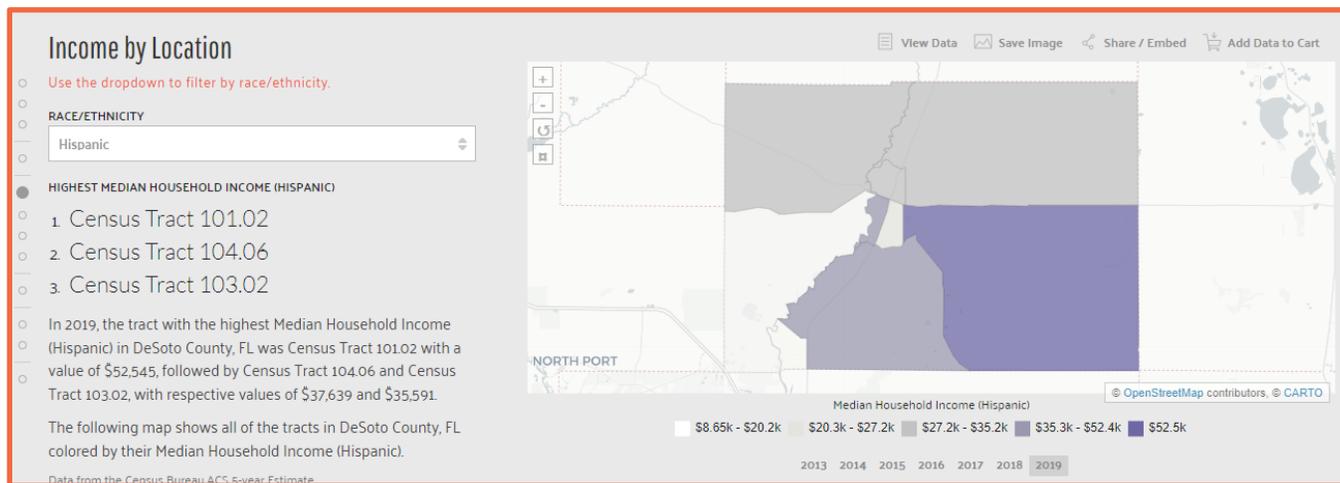
The graph above shows (26.8%) of the population for whom poverty status is determined in DeSoto County, FL (9.4k out of 35k people) live below the poverty line, a number that is higher than the national average of (12.3%). The largest demographic living in poverty are Males 45 - 54, followed by Males 25 - 34 and then Males 18 - 24.

### DeSoto County Income for the Black or African American Community

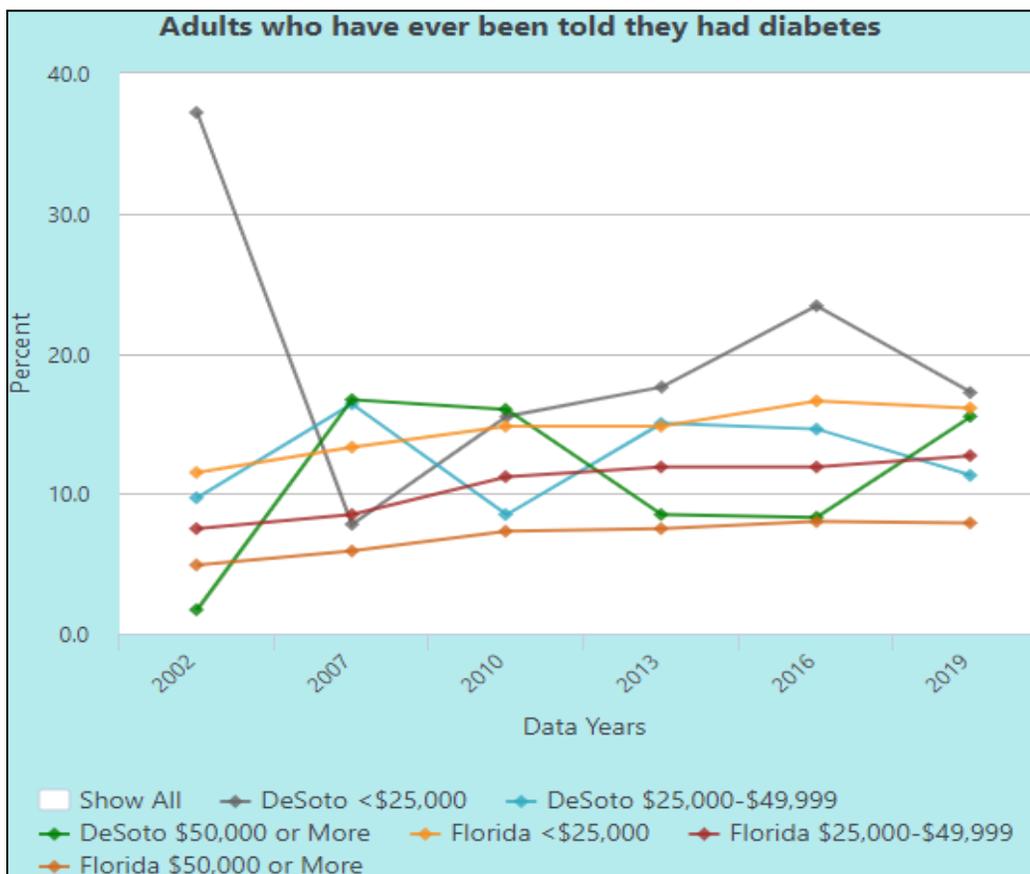


DeSoto County, FL | Data USA

### DeSoto County Map by Income for the Hispanic Community



DeSoto County, FL | Data USA



Florida Behavioral Risk Factor (BRFSS) Data - Florida Health CHARTS - Florida Department of Health(flhealthcharts.gov)

The chart above shows the percentage of adults who have ever been told they

have diabetes by income levels. The \$25,000 and below income bracket shows the highest percentage (17.2%) compared to (16.1%) for Florida. Income is a barrier in DeSoto. Connecting clients with community partners and resources may result in employment opportunities and access to services.

- The impact of economic stability on diabetes

<b>Economic Stability</b>		
<b>SDOH</b>	<b>Vulnerable Populations Impacted</b>	<b>How the SDOH Impacts Diabetes</b>
Employment	Hispanic, Black or African American Males, residents who speak English less than very well, immigrants, disabled population	Without proper management of diabetes, a person will be limited in their ability to work. Many people with steady work still don't earn enough to afford the things they need to stay healthy. DeSoto is a rural community and without transportation a person cannot access employment readiness programs, career counseling, and childcare opportunities.
Income	Hispanic, Black or African American Males, residents who speak English less than very well, immigrants, disabled population	Income impacts nutrition and access to healthy food. Income affects a person's ability to purchase basic needs such as food, shelter, clothing and opportunities to access healthier options. The DeSoto County, Black or African American male population have the largest percentage of poverty.
Expenses	Hispanic, Black or African American	Population who are housing insecure or has no means to pay for the medication that would be best for them or have no access to refrigeration for their insulin because they are unable to pay

	Males, residents who speak English less than very well, immigrants, disabled population	the electric bill. Expenses impact budget for healthcare and healthy food and opportunities for exercise.
Debt	Hispanic, Black or African American Males, residents who speak English less than very well, immigrants, disabled population	Debt can impact credit, ability to build capital, and limit budget for housing, healthcare and healthy food. The cycle of poverty is hard to break. With a high debt to income ratio, a person will be less likely to finance a vehicle or obtain homeownership. The burden of debt can create stress and overall poor mental health.
Medical Bills	Hispanic, Black or African American Males, residents who speak English less than very well, immigrants, disabled population	Lack of primary care treatment due to no insurance, leads to unnecessary trips to the hospital emergency department. Cost of doctor visits, medications, and labs are a barrier.
Support	Hispanic, Black or African American Males, residents who speak English	There are known biases held by health care professionals. We know from the research that health care professionals tend to spend less time speaking with patients from minority backgrounds or lower socioeconomic status. Sometimes health care professionals have attributed nonadherence to poor motivation

	less than very well, immigrants, disabled population	toward good health. Lack of support impacts income, access to medical care, medications, access to health education, proper nutrition and exercise opportunities
Hunger	Hispanic, Black or African American Males, residents who speak English less than very well, immigrants, disabled population	Food insecurity due to economic instability seems to be one of the most impactful SDOHs relating to risk of pre-diabetes and diabetes in DeSoto. Food insecurity may impact access to healthy food, meal preparation, sustaining a healthy diet, and stress levels in clients. Research shows the mental health impacts of food insecurity may impede management of type 2 diabetes by being a barrier and food insecurity is a main component in the mental health of the diabetic population. Deprivation mindset may impact healthy eating habits in these vulnerable populations. Treatment interventions can shift focus to nutritional value, reframing food as a sustainable energy source within impoverished client populations. Food insecurity is directly related to income, employment stability, access to healthcare and health education.

### C. Neighborhood and Built Environment



- Neighborhood and built environment data for Desoto County

The built environment includes the buildings in which we work and learn, the parks in which we exercise, the roads and transportation systems we use to

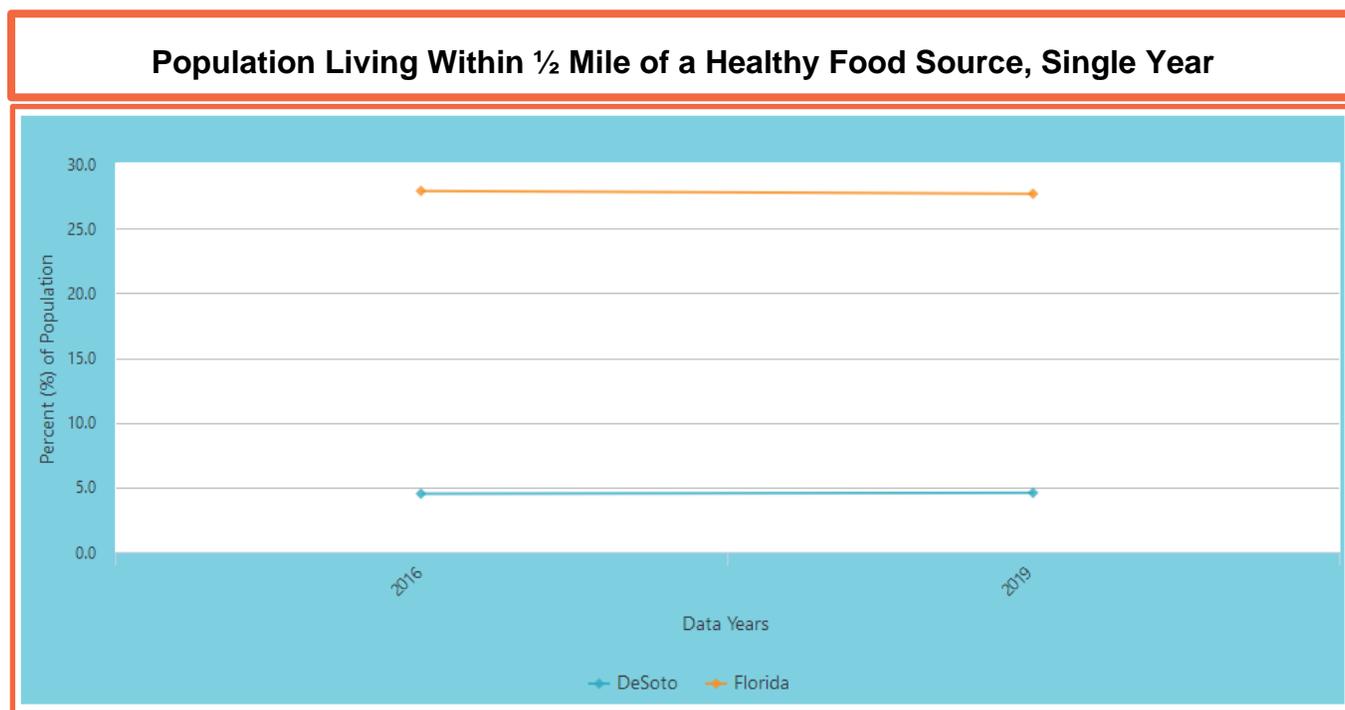
## DOH-DeSoto County

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travel from place to place, as well as the water distribution systems, electrical grids, and mobile and broadband networks we use to access information and stay connected. Characteristics of the built environment may limit our access to healthcare, healthy food, clean water, and safe places for physical activity.

Access to healthy food sources and recreational areas are necessary to support healthy diets and physical activity. Lack of physical activity and unhealthy eating are major risk factors for diabetes and other chronic diseases.

In 2019, the percentage of Population Living Within ½ Mile of a Healthy Food Source in DeSoto County was (4.6%) compared to Florida at (27.7%). The line graph below shows change over time when there are at least three years of data.



Population Living Within ½ Mile of a Healthy Food Source - Florida Health CHARTS - Florida Department of Health | CHARTS (flhealthcharts.gov)

Accessibility to green space and parks for exercise may also be one of the main barriers in the prevention and management of diabetes in DeSoto County. Inactivity due to lack of access to parks and green space as well as low access

## DOH-DeSoto County

### Health Equity Plan

to healthy food are two of the most impactful barriers in DeSoto. Obesity is one of the leading risk factors in diabetes.

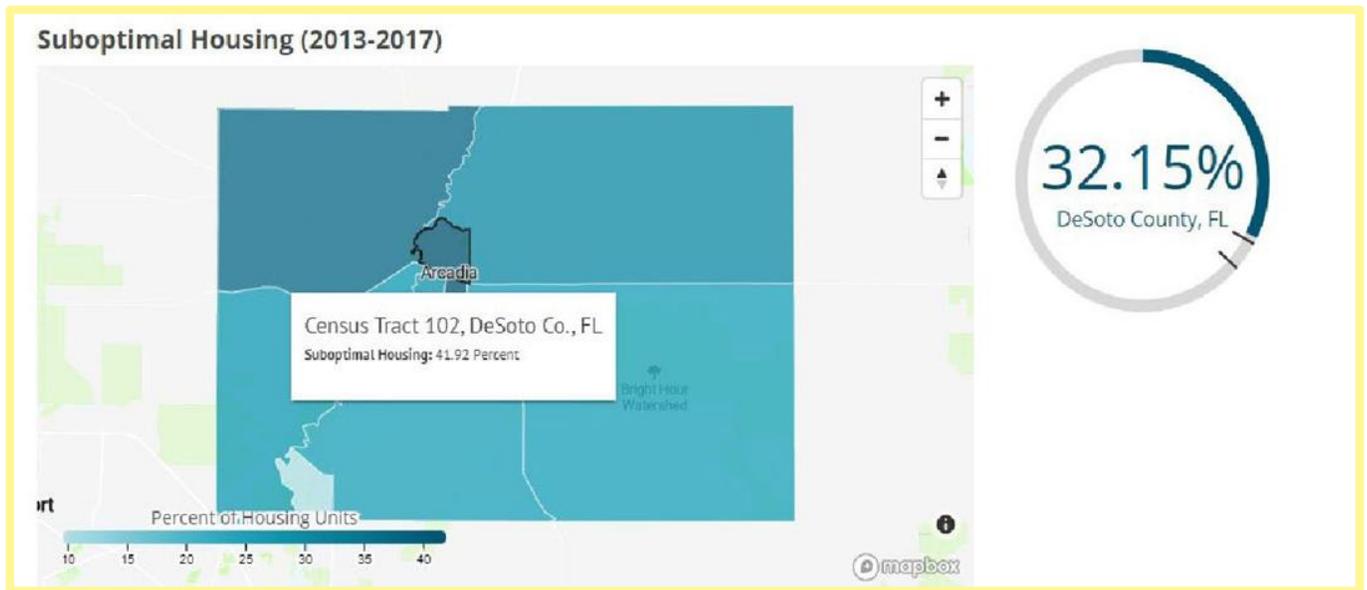
The 2019 data below shows the percentage of White, Black or African American, and Hispanic adults in Desoto County who are sedentary. Physical inactivity is a barrier in the DeSoto diabetic and pre-diabetic population. There is a significant amount of Hispanic adults (40.5%) compared to Non-Hispanic Black (10.4%). Focusing on vulnerable populations, lifestyle interventions and health education on weight management can provide opportunities for increased effort and awareness of client physical activity and overall fitness.

Adults who are sedentary						
	DeSoto			Florida		
Year	Non-Hispanic White	Non-Hispanic Black	Hispanic	Non-Hispanic White	Non-Hispanic Black	Hispanic
2019	32.2% (25.6% - 38.7%)	10.4% (1.7% - 19.1%)	40.5% (29.7% - 51.2%)	24.1% (22.7% - 25.6%)	28.9% (24.4% - 33.4%)	31.5% (27.5% - 35.6%)
2016	40.7% (35% - 46.4%)	60% (39.9% - 80.1%)	50.2% (36.5% - 64%)	26% (25% - 27.1%)	31.8% (28.6% - 35.1%)	38.3% (35.7% - 40.9%)
2013	39.5% (23.4% - 55.7%)		30.6% (6.5% - 54.7%)	25.1% (24% - 26.2%)	30.2% (26.6% - 33.9%)	31.6% (28.1% - 35.1%)
2007	29.5% (20.2% - 41%)	15.3% (5.4% - 36.3%)	42.6% (30.1% - 56.1%)	21.3% (20.3% - 22.3%)	32% (28% - 36.3%)	37% (33.5% - 40.6%)

Florida Behavioral Risk Factor (BRFSS) Data - Florida Health CHARTS - Florida Department of Health

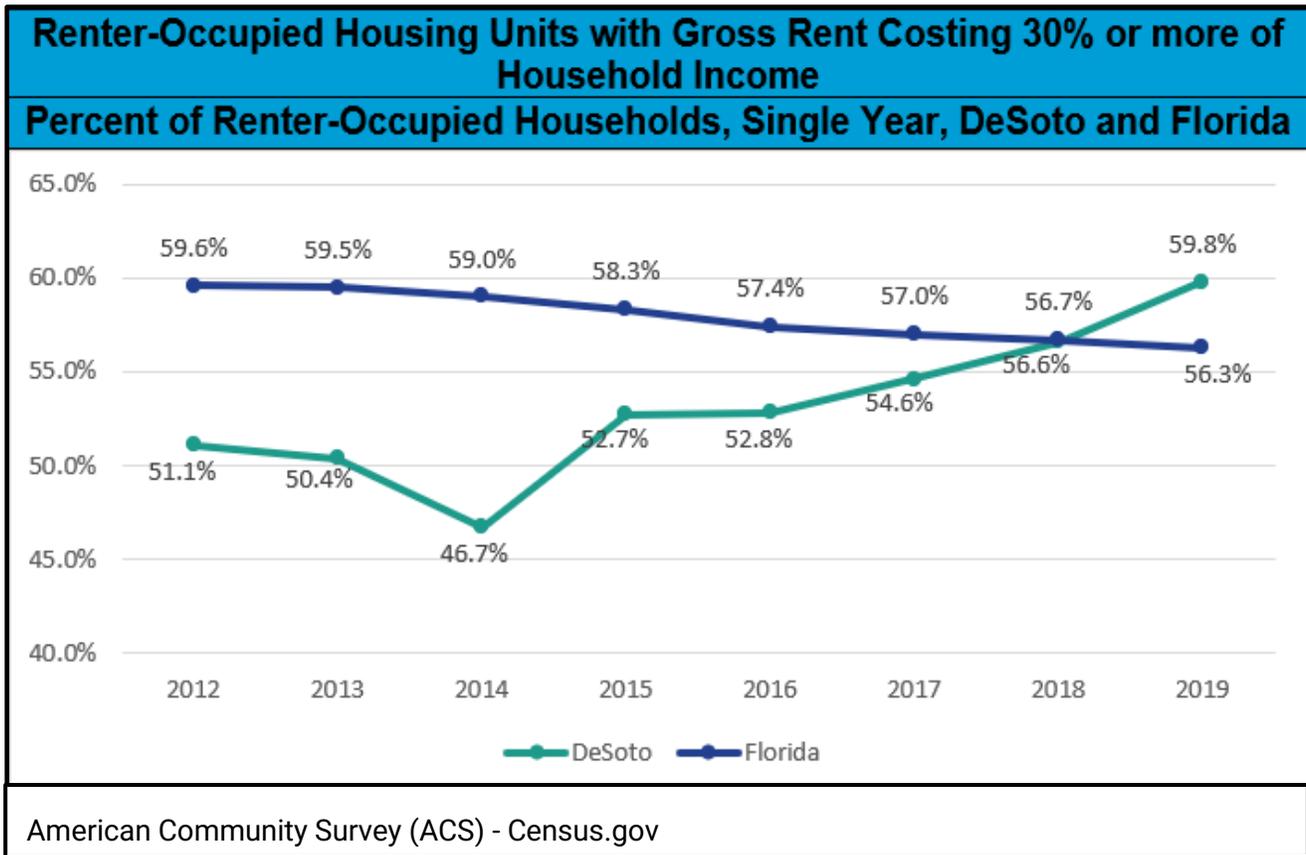
Suboptimal housing may impact clients' overall health and wellness and may indicate other barriers such as neighborhood safety, elevated stress levels, access to healthy food, and access to space for exercise. The client population struggling with the problem of suboptimal housing may be best served by providing treatment indoor interventions such as individualized exercise instruction via the internet as well as community engagement and free group fitness opportunities in a designated safe space. The image below identifies census tract 102 in DeSoto County where the majority of the population is Black or African American. The park identified by the Health Equity Taskforce for a

SDOH project is also in census tract, 102.

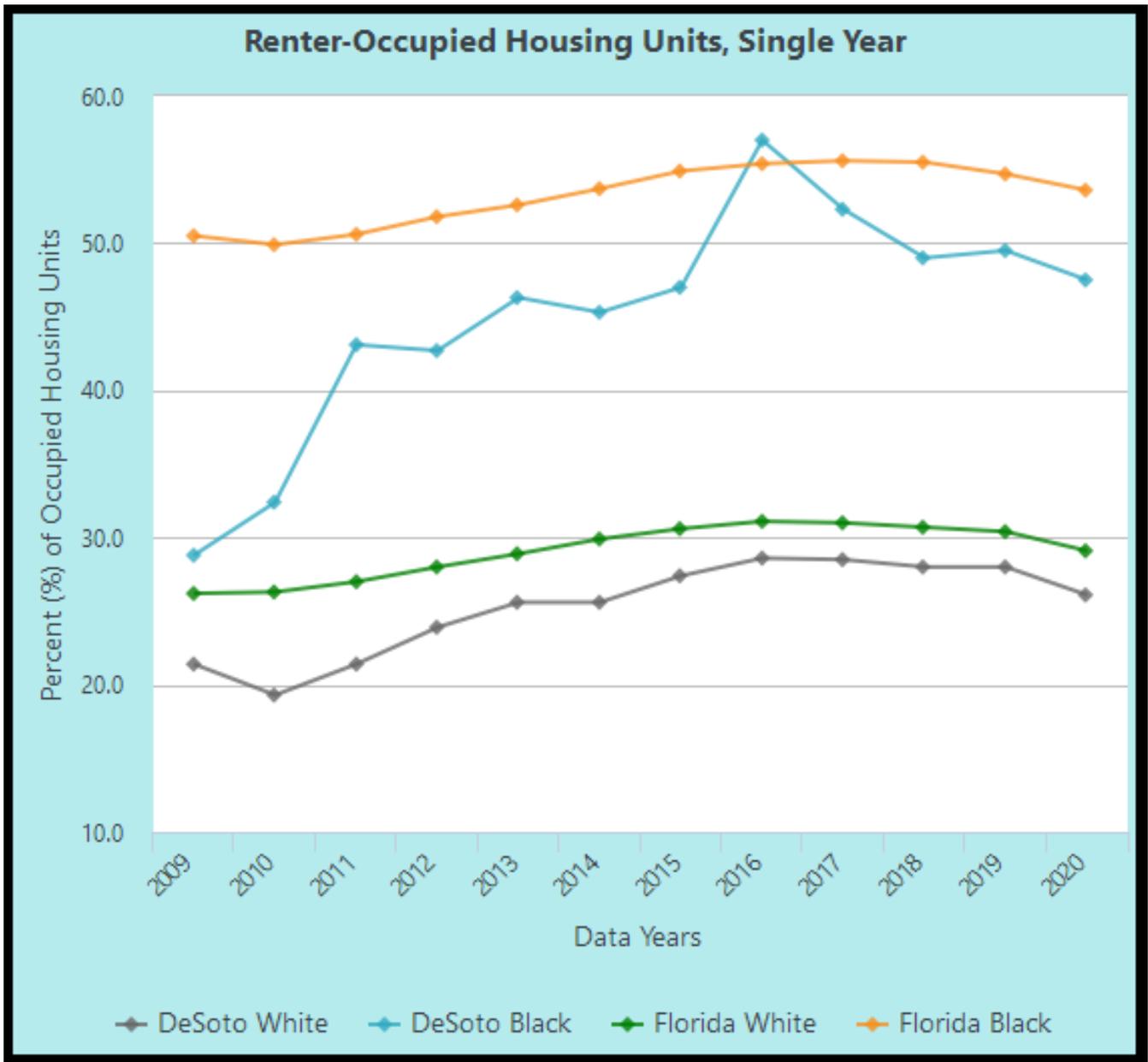


Housing: DeSoto County, Florida | LiveStories

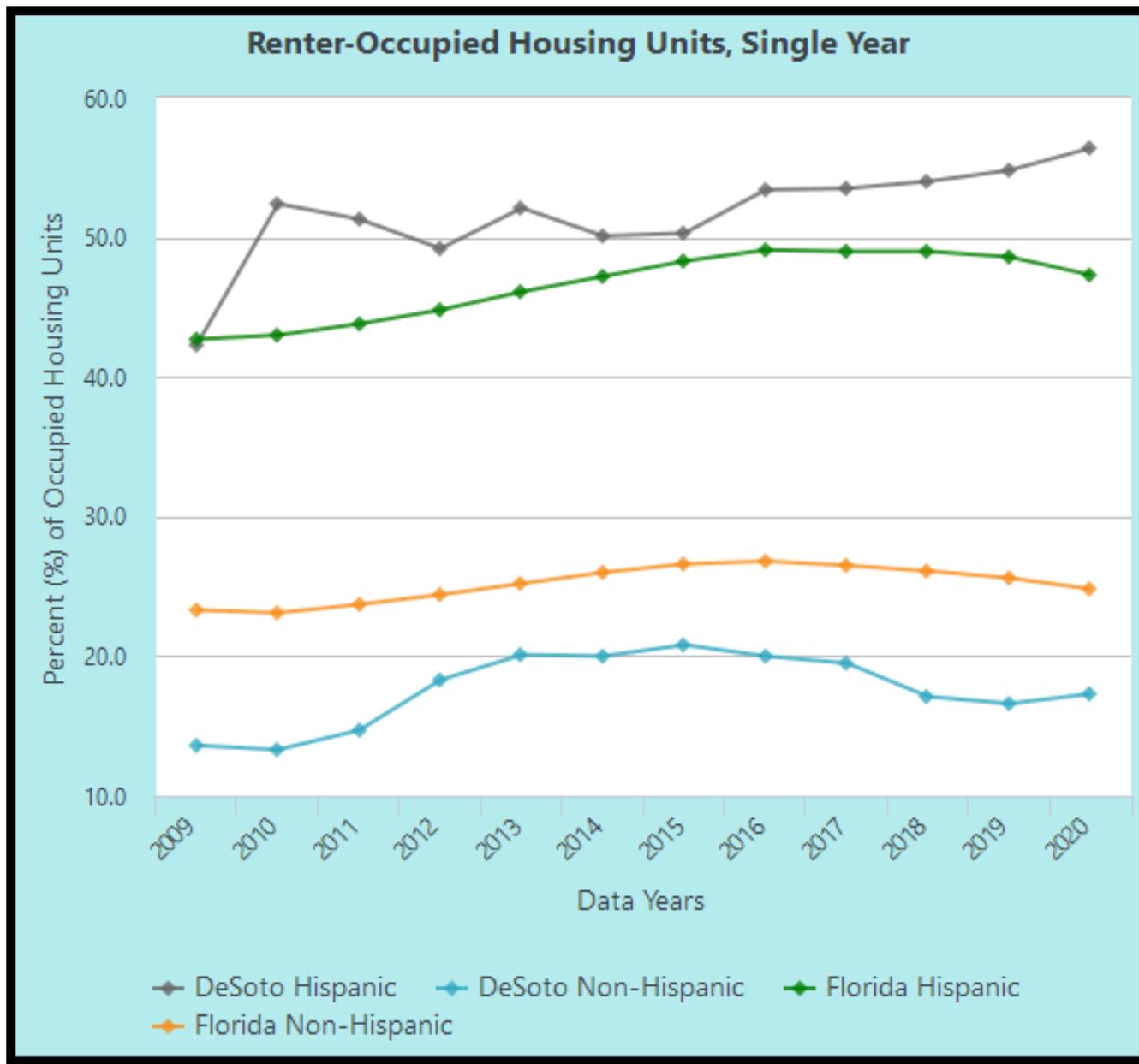
The Department of Housing and Urban Development considers housing that costs more than thirty percent of a household's income to be unaffordable. A higher percentage of renters in DeSoto County have unaffordable rent than the Florida average (59.8% DeSoto, vs. 56.3% State). The percentage has been increasing in DeSoto County across the past six years.



The chart below shows a comparison Renter Occupied Housing Units, Single Year in DeSoto County. There is a significant difference in the percentage of Black or African American (47.5%) population who rent a home in DeSoto County compared to the White population (26.1%). The DeSoto Hispanic population shows the highest percentage of renter occupied housing with (56.4%) compared to the DeSoto Non-Hispanic (17.3%%). The DeSoto Hispanic population who live in a renter occupied housing unit is higher than the Florida Hispanic percentage of (47.3%).



Renter-Occupied Housing Units - Florida Health CHARTS - Florida Department of Health (flhealthcharts.gov)



<https://www.flhealthcharts.gov/ChartsReports/rdPage.aspx?rdReport=NonVitalIndGrp.Dataviewer>

DeSoto County 2020, Count of Occupied Housing Units Without Plumbing or Kitchen Facilities	DeSoto	Florida
Housing Units Lacking Complete Plumbing Facilities, Single Year	40	22,095
Housing Units Lacking Complete Kitchen Facilities, Single Year	102	55,761

<https://www.flhealthcharts.gov/ChartsReports/rdPage.aspx?rdReport=NonVitalIndNoGrp.Dataviewer>

- The impact of neighborhood and built environment on diabetes

<b>Neighborhood and Built Environment</b>		
<b>SDOH</b>	<b>Vulnerable Populations Impacted</b>	<b>How the SDOH Impacts diabetes</b>
Housing	Hispanic, Black or African American, Disabled	<p>Severe housing problems are associated with poor health outcomes such as diabetes and obesity.</p> <p>Home ownership is found to be associated with lower rate of diabetes.</p> <p>Residents who experience unstable housing and move frequently may also experience poor health outcomes and food insecurity in childhood, which contributes to racial and ethnic health disparities, to include obesity and diabetes.</p> <p>Research has demonstrated that a higher proportion of homeless individuals are overweight and prone to unmanaged diabetes.</p>
Transportation	Hispanic, Black or African American, Disabled, Foreign-born, Immigrants, Elderly	<p>The population without means of transportation face barriers to accessing essential health care services, employment opportunities, and healthy foods, among other services and resources to manage and prevent diabetes. The collaboration with Heartland Rural Transportation Network’s CTP program is shared in the DeSoto County Resource Guide.</p>
Safety	Hispanic, Black or African American, Disabled	<p>Safety of the neighborhoods impacts client stress levels and overall health and well-being. Safety directly impacts vulnerable clients walkability index and opportunities for exercise.</p>
Parks	Hispanic, Black or African	<p>Access to recreational areas are necessary to support healthy diets and physical activity.</p> <p>Lack of physical activity and unhealthy eating</p>

	American, Disabled	are major risk factors for diabetes and other chronic diseases.
Playgrounds	Hispanic, Black or African American, Disabled	Children and families with convenient access to parks and recreational resources are less likely to be overweight or obese, due to increased opportunities to engage in outdoor physical activity.
Walkability	Hispanic, Black or African American, Disabled	People who live in areas with high walkability participate in higher levels of physical activity and experience lower rates of obesity and overweight status than those who live in areas with lower walkability.
Geography	Hispanic, Black or African American, Disabled	Social geography affects how a person manages health care and health resources. When conditions for health are unequal, there are health inequities.
Access to nutritional food	Hispanic, Black or African American, Disabled, Foreign-born, Immigrants	We also know that poverty limits access to healthy foods and safe neighborhoods and that more education is a predictor of better health. Healthy Food is a prescription for good health. Access to healthy food sources and recreational areas are necessary to support healthy diets and physical activity. Lack of physical activity and unhealthy eating are major risk factors for diabetes and other chronic diseases.

## D. Social and Community Context



- Social and community context data for DeSoto County

Population Estimates, July 1 2021, (V2021)		34,408
<b>PEOPLE</b>		
<b>Families &amp; Living Arrangements</b>		
Households, 2016-2020		12,421
Persons per household, 2016-2020		2.73
Living in same house 1 year ago, percent of persons age 1 year+, 2016-2020		86.7%
Language other than English spoken at home, percent of persons age 5 years+, 2016-2020		27.5%

U.S. Census Bureau QuickFacts: DeSoto County, Florida

27.5% of the DeSoto client population speaks a language other than English. DOH-DeSoto addresses this barrier by engaging clients with translators and offering bilingual literature and resources.

American Community Survey	
PRESENCE OF A COMPUTER AND TYPE OF INTERNET SUBSCRIPTION IN HOUSEHOLD	
DeSoto County, Florida	
Label	Estimate
Total:	12,421
Has a computer:	9,413
With dial-up Internet subscription alone	72
With a broadband Internet subscription	7,777
Without an Internet subscription	1,564
No computer	3,008

B28003: Presence Of A Computer And... - Census Bureau Table

According to the graph above, 75.8% of the DeSoto client population have computers in their home and 63% have internet access, however this percentage accounts for only 35% of the DeSoto population. The Health Equity team will use internet engagement, print material, and engage community partners to promote health education, fitness education, and treatment interventions.

The number of veterans in DeSoto County according to the U.S. Census Bureau in 2020 is 2,398 and foreign-born persons make up 14.8% of the population.

Both of these groups are considered vulnerable populations at risk for barriers such as lack of access to healthcare, food insecurity, income instability, and lack of access to healthy food. These barriers put these vulnerable populations at high risk for obesity and type 2 diabetes.

U.S. Census Bureau QuickFacts: DeSoto County, Florida

Social support may impact diabetes management and prevention. In 2019, the number of the unmarried client population diagnosed with diabetes was at 15.3% and married population at 14.3%, both higher than the state average. Community engagement and DOH sponsored fitness opportunities can boost social support in vulnerable client populations.

Florida Behavioral Risk Factor (BRFSS) Data - Florida Health CHARTS - Florida Department of Health (flhealthcharts.gov)

- **The impact of social and community context on diabetes**

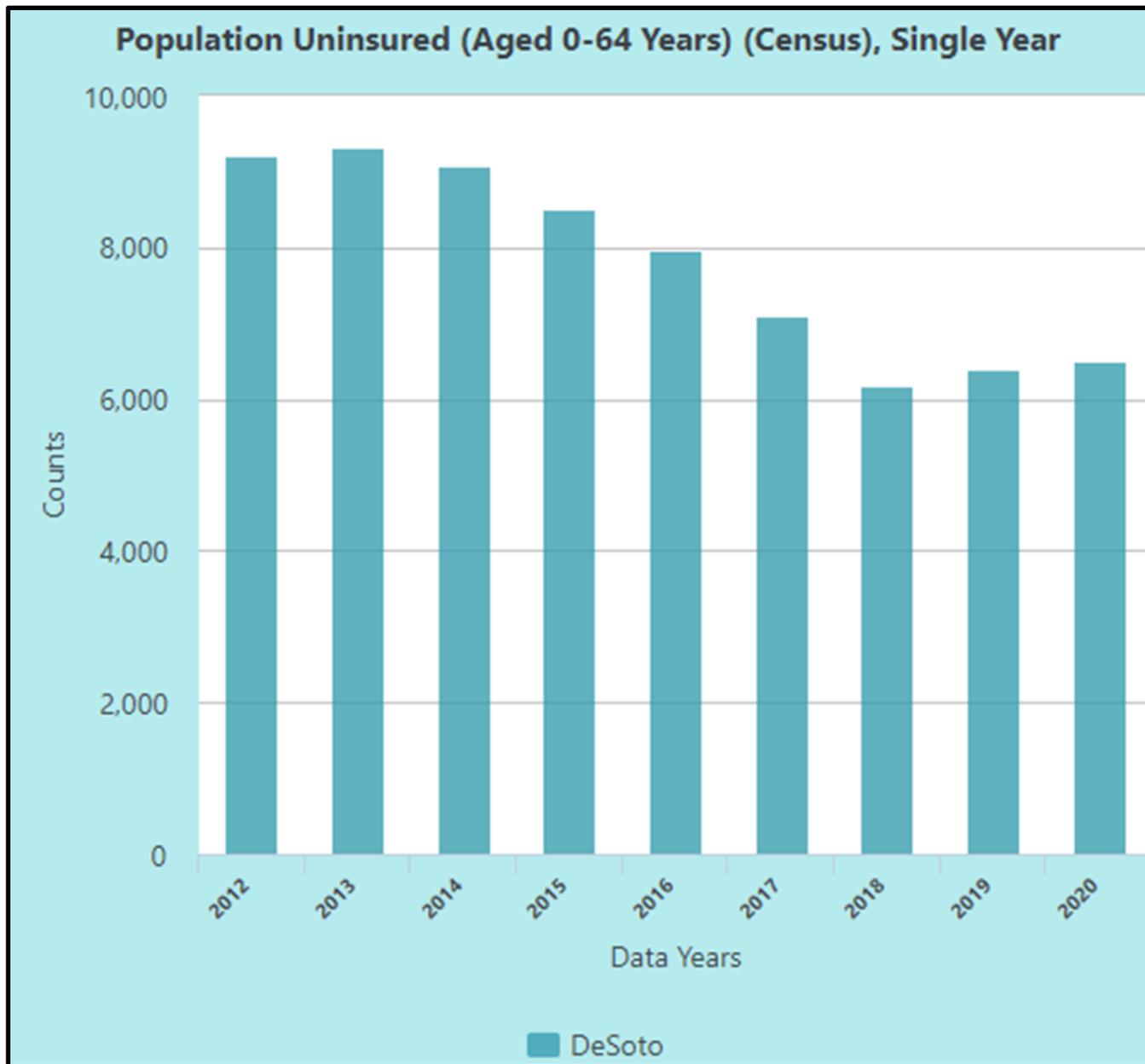
<b>Social and Community Context</b>		
<b>SDOH</b>	<b>Vulnerable Populations Impacted</b>	<b>How the SDOH Impacts diabetes</b>
Social Integration	Hispanic, Black or African American, Disabled, Foreign-born, Immigrants	Social integration may impact mental health, social support, access to resources and services, education, communication, access to care and community.
Support Systems	Hispanic, Black or African American, Disabled, Foreign-born,	Social support systems are key in implementing treatment interventions

	Immigrants, Seniors	
Community Engagement	Hispanic, Black or African American, Disabled, Foreign-born, Immigrants, Seniors	Community engagement promotes lifestyle changes necessary for managing diabetes and connects clients with resources
Discrimination	Hispanic, Black or African American, Disabled, Foreign-born, Immigrants, Seniors	Discrimination can impact minority access to exercise, housing, healthcare, education, and healthy food.
Stress	Hispanic, Black or African American, Disabled, Foreign-born, Immigrants, Seniors	High stress levels impact overall health and wellness and lifestyle interventions for managing diabetes.

### E. Health Care Access and Quality



- Health care access and quality data for DeSoto County

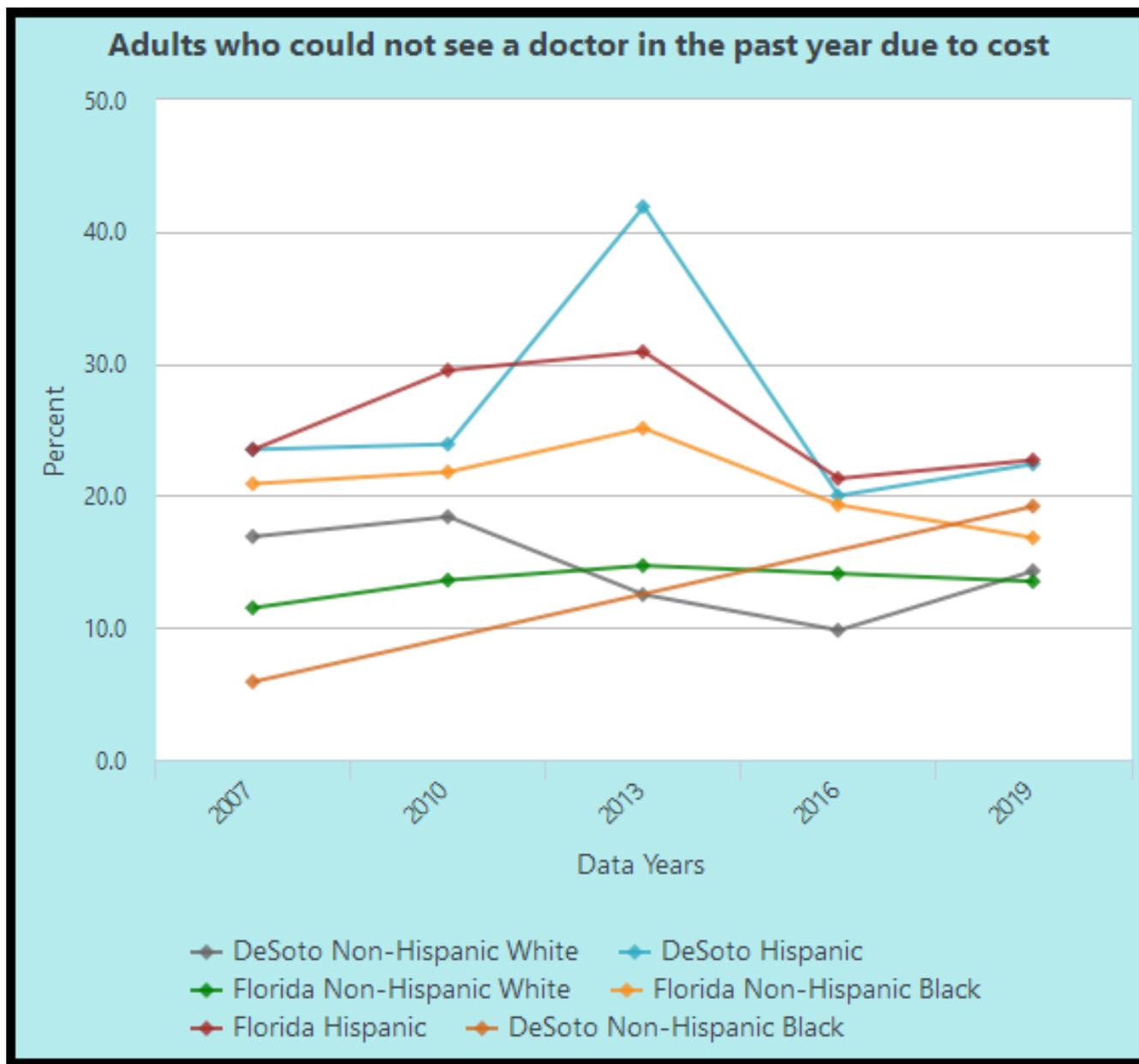


Population Uninsured (Aged 0-64 Years) (Census) - Florida Health CHARTS - Florida Department of Health (flhealthcharts.gov)

- The impact of health care access and quality on diabetes

Uninsured client populations are at risk for lack of access to healthcare, health education, medications, healthy food, and optimal treatment. Lack of access can result in later diabetes diagnosis and treatment interventions. Access of healthcare is a barrier in this disparity. There is a higher percentage of Desoto

County Hispanic Adults who could not see the doctor this past year due to cost (22.7%) compared to the Desoto Black Non-Hispanic population (19.2%).



Florida Behavioral Risk Factor (BRFSS) Data - Florida Health CHARTS - Florida Department of Health (flhealthcharts.gov)

Cost of care is a significant barrier for vulnerable populations resulting in lack of access to healthcare and health education, as well as early diagnosis, treatment, and preventative care for diabetes. The data shows the cost of care negatively

impacts minority populations. DOH-DeSoto hopes to increase access to treatment to these priority populations.

<b>Health Care Access and Quality</b>		
<b>SDOH</b>	<b>Vulnerable Populations Impacted</b>	<b>How the SDOH Impacts diabetes</b>
Health Coverage	Hispanic, Black or African American, Disabled, Foreign-born, Immigrants, Seniors	Lack of insurance impacts access to health care.
Provider Linguistic and Cultural Competency	Hispanic, Foreign-born, Immigrants, Seniors	Provider linguistic and cultural competency can impact quality of care, health care education, communication, client compliance with treatment interventions, and self-management of diabetes
Provider Availability	Hispanic, Black or African American, Disabled, Foreign-born, Immigrants, Seniors	Provider availability impacts clients with only one provider and it impacts quality of care and access to care and timely treatment as well as preventative care
Quality of Care	Hispanic, Black or African American, Disabled, Foreign-born, Immigrants, Seniors	Quality of care impacts clients with only one option for healthcare as well as overall client treatment outcomes

## VIII. SDOH PROJECTS

The Minority Health Liaison recruited and engaged members across the county, including government agencies, nonprofits, private businesses, and community organizations, to join the Health Equity Taskforce. The Minority Health Liaison took into consideration the prioritized health disparity and the impactful SDOHs identified by the Health Equity Team during recruitment.

### A. Data Review

The Health Equity Taskforce reviewed data, including health disparities and SDOHs provided by the Health Equity Team. The Health Equity Taskforce also researched evidence-based and promising approaches to improve the identified SDOHs. The Health Equity Taskforce considered the policies, systems and environments that lead to inequities. Based on the data discussed during quarterly CHIP meetings and conversations in with community partners, the priority populations are **Black or African males ages 18-54, Hispanic men and women, and the elderly**. The Health Equity Taskforce identified the elderly population based on their disability status and the prevalence of grandparents in DeSoto County who are raising their grandchildren. Improving SDOH barriers of these populations will improve access to a healthier life for the priority population and their families.

### B. Barrier Identification

Members of the Health Equity Taskforce worked collaboratively to identify their organizations' barriers to fully addressing the SDOHs relevant to their organization's mission. Common themes were explored as well as collaborative strategies to overcome barriers.

Partners	SDOH	Partner Barriers	Collaborative Strategies
Area Agency on Aging for	Neighborhood and Built Environment	Health literacy, transportation	Health Equity Taskforce members will partner with and refer clients to Heartland Rides for the provision of low-

Southwest Florida			cost ride share services to residents in need. Services can include cross-county travel for as low as \$2 each way.
DeSoto Memorial Hospital	Education Access and Quality, Healthcare Access and Quality	Health literacy, transportation, language	DeSoto County Resource Guide, Health Equity Taskforce members will partner with and refer clients to Heartland Rides for the provision of low-cost ride share services to residents in need. Services can include cross-county travel for as low as \$2 each way.
DeSoto County Sherriff	Neighborhood and Built Environment, Safety	Language, transportation	DeSoto County Resource Guide, Health Equity Taskforce members will partner with and refer clients to Heartland Rides for the provision of low-cost ride share services to residents in need. Services can include cross-county travel for as low as \$2 each way.
Eckerd's Pharmacy	Healthcare Access and Quality,	Lack of insurance, transportation, health literacy	DeSoto County Resource Guide, Offering low-cost and free diabetes medicine
Senior Friendship Center	Healthcare Access and Quality, Social and Community Context	Transportation, health literacy	DeSoto County Resource Guide, hosting senior wellness activities

Arcadia Housing Authority	Housing, Neighborhood and Built Environment, Social and Community Context	Financial literacy, Social and Community Context	Hosting lifestyle intervention program, Financial literacy, affordable housing, Partnership to provide health information at affordable housing developments
DeSoto Food Resource Center	Food Insecurity	Language, transportation, lack of awareness	Hunger screening, assists with Social Security applications, Disability
School District of DeSoto County	Access to Education	Language	Adult Education, ESOL, Grants available for single mothers
Catholic Charities San Juan Bosco	Access to Education, Social and Community Context	Language, Health Literacy	

## C. Community Projects

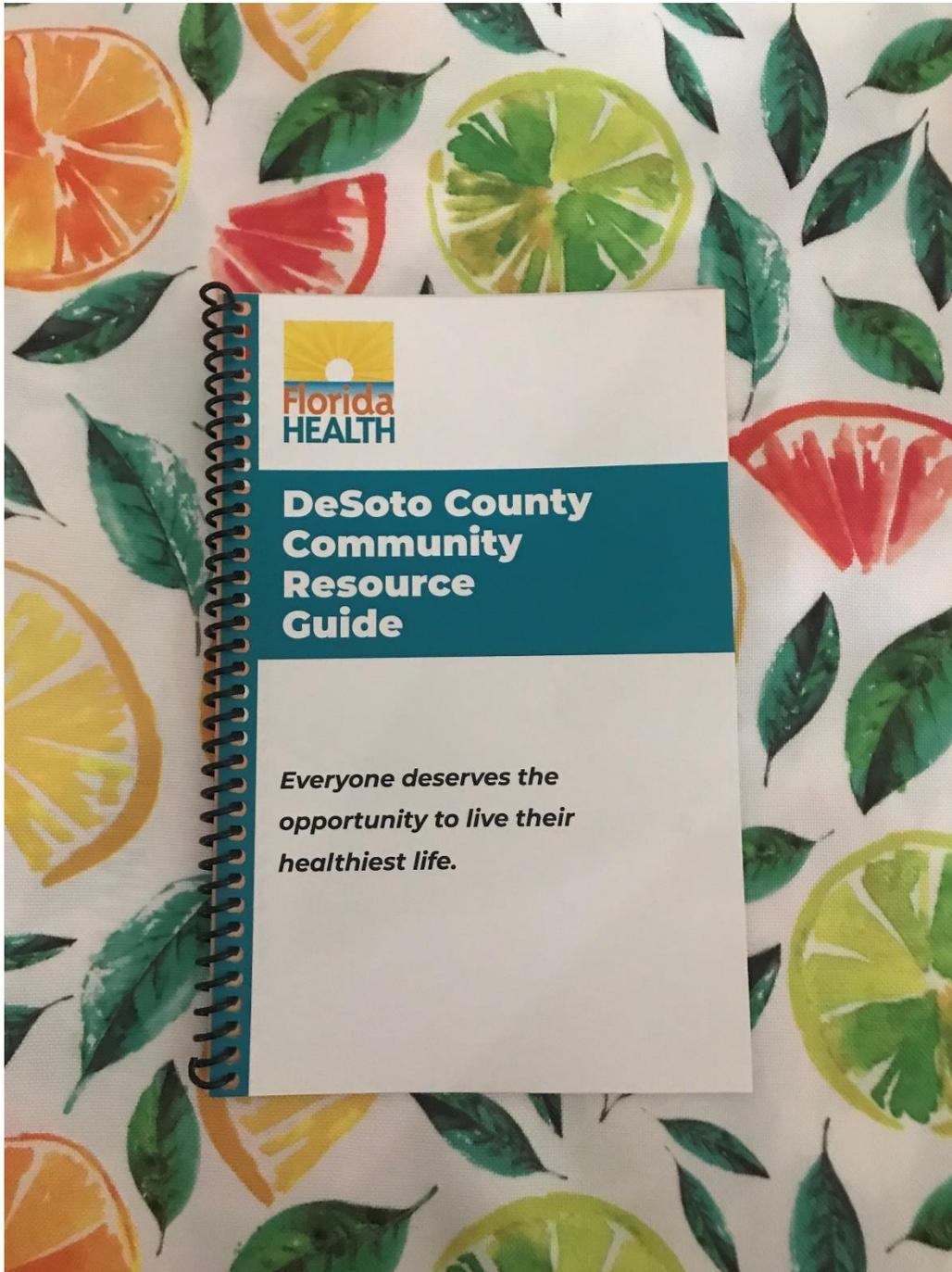
### DeSoto County Resource Guide

DeSoto County is known to be, “Small, but Mighty.” With very active and engaged community partners who continuously focus on addressing SDOHs at a county-wide level by bringing together people of all sectors across the county, to include residents, government agencies, law enforcement, faith-based, nonprofits, private businesses, and community organizations, to work together so greater impact is achieved. DOH-DeSoto is known for listening to community needs and engaging stakeholders join efforts into making DeSoto County a healthier place to live. The prioritized health disparity and the impactful SDOHs identified by the Health Equity Team and feedback received from the community led the project to create a multi-language, one-in-all resource guide that identifies free or low-cost resources to address the SDOHs in DeSoto County. The below, DeSoto County Resource Guide provides the community a boost of knowledge

## DOH-DeSoto County

### Health Equity Plan

and an over-all feeling of hope that a healthier life is achievable for all. The goal of the team is to create an online platform that can be consistently updated. DeSoto County does not have a local news channel or newspaper delivery. The full Resource Guide is located in Appendix A.



#### Community Survey to Identify COVID-19 Vaccine Interest, SDOH Barriers, Food Insecurity, and Interest in Making Lifestyle Modifications

The health equity projects in DeSoto align with the Protocol for Assessing Community Excellence in Environmental Health (PACE-EH), Healthiest Weight, and the Community Health Improvement Plan (CHIP). The incentive items will positively impact the community by providing an incentive to make lifestyle modifications while identifying community needs. The target population of these incentive items is DeSoto County (Census Tract 101.01-104.6). According to the latest Census and CHARTs data, DeSoto County exhibits some of the most concerning statistics when compared to its neighboring counties. This includes, a large migrant population, least favorable quartile of individuals living below poverty level, least favorable quartile of adults with health insurance or a personal doctor, least favorable quartile for death as result of cancer and diabetes, all ethnicities are in the least favorable quartile for obesity, and the least favorable quartile for adults who are inactive and who do not meet aerobic recommendations. The department plans on deploying the survey along with incentive items at the Minority Health Month celebration, Environmental Health employees, DOH-DeSoto programs and taskforce partners. community centers, senior centers, outreach events, and the local housing authority.

The survey will be used to measure any barriers to accessing care, COVID-19 vaccine and education, food security, and lifestyle behavior modification. Members of the Health Equity Taskforce will review the responses and identify any trends that could impact the health equity of DeSoto County. The Florida Department of Health in DeSoto County (DOH-DeSoto) will distribute various exercise equipment to residents who participate in a survey to identify food insecurity, transportation challenges, and other factors that prevent health equity. This approach is critical to our efforts to expand existing work to reduce disparities and develop prevention resources for the most vulnerable population. Addressing social determinants of health in the DeSoto community is key to reducing health disparities amongst the high risk, minority, and underserved. The survey will identify with risk factors that would qualify for education through participation in behavior modification to address specific disparities. DOH-DeSoto



#### Lake Katherine Walking Area and Exercise Stations

The Health Equity Taskforce has identified a SDOH project that will directly benefit an underserved neighborhood in DeSoto County whose primary population is Black or African American and Hispanic. The area has inadequate lighting in the park area to allow for walkers to feel safe in their environment. The exercise equipment is old and needs refurbishing so it will be safe to use. Plans are underway to make this dream a reality so the park area can be utilized by local residents who do not have an exercise or gathering area within walking distance. Improvements include cleaning up the natural areas, repairing or purchasing new exercise stations around the path, bench seating, and solar lighting for safety.

The Health Equity Taskforce researched evidence-based strategies to overcome the identified barriers and improve the SDOH that impact the prioritized health disparity. The Health Equity Taskforce used this information to collaboratively design community projects to address the SDOHs. During project design, the Health Equity Taskforce considered the policies, systems and environments that lead to inequities. Projects included short, medium, and long-term goals with measurable objectives. These projects were reviewed, edited, and approved by the Taskforce to ensure feasibility.

## IX. HEALTH EQUITY PLAN OBJECTIVES

### A. Diabetes in DeSoto County

Health Disparity Objective: By June 30, 2027, decrease the rate of Age-adjusted Emergency Department Visits From Diabetes for the Black & Other population from 999.7 (2020) to 800. (rate per 100,000 population)

	Lead Entity and Unit	Lead Point Person	Data Source	Baseline Value	Target Value	Plan Alignment
<b>Long-Term SDOH Goal: Improve Health Care Access and Quality, Neighborhood &amp; Built Environment Increase Physical Activity</b>						
By June 30, 2025, decrease the percent of Desoto County Adults who are inactive or insufficiently active from 65.3% (2016) to 50%.	DOH-DeSoto, HET	H. Smith	<u>Florida Behavioral Risk Factor (BRFSS) Data - Florida Health CHARTS - Florida Department of Health (flhealthcharts.gov)</u>	65.3%	50%	Healthiest Weight Healthy People 2030 CHIP New plan in process
<b>Medium Term SDOH Goal: Reduce the proportion of people who can't get prescription medicines when they need them - AHS-06</b>						
<b>SDOH: Health Care Access and Quality</b>						
By June 30, 2025, increase the amount of DeSoto County residents who utilize local pharmacies to	Pharmacy referrals for low-cost or free medicine/f or chronic	MJ-Eckerd's	Partnering pharmacies will collect data for medications	0 per month	25 per month	HP 2030 CHIP CHA

# DOH-DeSoto County

## Health Equity Plan

obtain free or low-cost medication	health conditions	DeSoto Memorial Hospital	dispensed through the program.			
<b>Short-Term SDOH Goal: Reduce household food insecurity and hunger - NWS-01 SDOH: Nutrition Access and Healthy Eating</b>						
By December 31, 2023, create an HMS service code to document hunger screening at client visits in HMS	DeSoto Food Resource Center  DOH-DeSoto Dental WIC Primary Care Clinic, EH	DOH-Dental WIC, and Primary Care Clinic	HMS reporting	0	1	Healthiest Weight  Pace-EH

<b>Improve Health Care Access and Quality, Neighborhood &amp; Built Environment Increase Physical Activity</b>						
By June 30, 2027, decrease the percentage of DeSoto adults who are overweight from 40.7% (2019) to 35%.	HET, Schools, City and County	H. Smith, HET	<a href="https://www.flhealthcharts.gov/ChartsReports/rdPage.aspx?rdReport=BrfssCounty.Dataviewer">https://www.flhealthcharts.gov/ChartsReports/rdPage.aspx?rdReport=BrfssCounty.Dataviewer</a>	Black Non-Hispanic (50.1%) White (43.2%) Hispanic (26.5%)	Black Non-Hispanic (50.1%) White (43.2%) Hispanic (26.5%)	Healthiest Weight  CHIP
<b>Medium-Term SDOH Goal: Improve Cultural Competence Amongst the Workforce</b>						
By June 30, 2024, All DOH-DeSoto employees will complete modules 1-3, Health Equity Training Modules.	DOH-DeSoto Unit: certificate of completion	Heather Smith	Wisconsin Center for Public Health Education Training	0%	100%	Health Equity PHAB Measure 11.1.4.A  WFD

Assign training on 10/31/2022						
<b>Short-Term SDOH Goal: Improve Partnerships to Improve SDOH Factors</b>						
By June 30,2023, Promote future sustainment for Health Equity projects by having 3 DOH-employees and 3 HE Taskforce members complete grant writing training.	DOH-DeSoto  HE Taskforce	DeSoto Senior Leadership	OMHE grant writing classes	0 people	6 people	Health Equity Financial Sustainment

## X. PERFORMANCE TRACKING AND REPORTING

Ongoing communication is critical to the achievement of health equity goals and the institutionalization of a health equity focus. The successes of Health Equity Plan projects are shared with OMHHE, partners, other CHDs, CHD staff, and the Central Office through systematic information-sharing, networking, collecting, and reporting on knowledge gained, so that lessons learned can be replicated in other counties and programs. Regional Health Equity Coordinators facilitate systematic communication within their region.

The Minority Health Liaison serves as the point of contact in their county for sharing progress updates, implementation barriers, and practices associated with the Health Equity Plan. The Minority Health Liaison is responsible for gathering data and monitoring and reporting progress achieved on the goals and objectives of the Health Equity Plan. At least quarterly, the Minority Health Liaison meets with the Health Equity Taskforce to discuss progress and barriers. The Minority Health Liaison tracks and submits indicator values to the OMHHE within 15 days of the quarter end.

Annually, the Minority Health Liaison submits a Health Equity Plan Annual Report assessing progress toward reaching goals, objectives, achievements, obstacles, and revisions to the Regional Health Equity Coordinator and Coalition. The Regional Health Equity Coordinator and Coalition leaders provide feedback to the Minority Health Liaison and the Health Equity Taskforce from these annual reports. The Minority Health Liaison then submits the completed report to OMHHE by July 15<sup>th</sup> annually.

## **XI. REVISIONS**

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Annually, the Health Equity Taskforce reviews the Health Equity Plan to identify strengths, opportunities for improvement, and lessons learned. This information is then used to revise the plan as needed.

<b>Revision</b>	<b>Revised By</b>	<b>Revision Date</b>	<b>Rationale for Revision</b>



# DeSoto County Community Resource Guide

*Everyone deserves the  
opportunity to live their  
healthiest life.*

### Florida Department of Health in DeSoto County

#### Covid-19 Information

- <https://floridahealthcovid19.gov>

#### Adult & Pediatric Dental

- Cleanings, Exams & X-rays, Fillings, Extractions, Crowns & Bridges, Dentures & Partials, School dental program at each school



#### Environmental Health

- Water testing, Migrant Housing, Septic Permits, Sharps Disposal Program, Food Hygiene, Biomedical Waste

#### Adult & Children Primary Care Women, Infants, & Children (WIC) Healthy Start

- Prenatal/Breastfeeding/Nutrition education
- Birth & Death Certificates
- Women's Health
- Family Planning
- Confidential HIV/AIDS treatment & testing
- DOT Physicals
- Sexually Transmitted Disease
- Immunizations
- School Health
- Ryan White Lead Agency

#### Baldwin – Main location

34 South Baldwin Avenue, Arcadia, FL  
(863) 993-4601  
Most insurance is accepted  
<https://desoto.floridahealth.gov/>

#### Oak Street Primary Clinic

1031 East Oak Street, Arcadia, FL  
(863) 491-7580  
Most insurance is accepted  
<https://desoto.floridahealth.gov/>

### Transportation



#### DART – DeSoto – Arcadia Regional Transit

DART is Arcadia's public transit system, providing transportation to jobs, shopping, medical, and other services throughout the day.  
1-800-694-6566  
<https://desotobus.com/>

#### Heartland Rides Community Transportation Coordinator

CTC provides door-to-door transportation needed to live a healthy life – medical appointments, employment, education, shopping, social activities, and other life-sustaining services.  
(800) 260-0139  
<https://www.mtmtransit.com/heartland/>

#### Private Taxi Services

### Food / Social Services

#### United Way Suncoast

Call 211 for help!  
<https://www.211.org/>

#### All Faiths Food Bank – DeSoto Food and Resource Center

Assists with free emergency food supplies along with public benefit application assistance, such as SNAP, Medicaid, TANIF, Social Security, Disability and Florida Kid Care. Rent, mortgage and utility support also available.

1021 East Oak Street, Arcadia, FL  
(941)-379-6333  
<https://allfaithsfoodbank.org/desoto-food-and-resource-center/>

#### Catholic Charities – Diocese of Venice, Inc.

Assistance with payments for rent, mortgage, and utilities, along with other basic needs for food, transportation, prescription medications, immigration assistance, farm worker housing, senior housing, mental health services.

1210 East Oak Street, Arcadia, FL  
(863)-494-1068  
<https://catholiccharitiesdov.org/charities/catholic-charities-desoto-county/>

#### DeSoto County Social Services

Directs individuals to food, shelter, transportation, medical assistance, utility assistance, indigent burial, Health Care Responsibility Act (HRCA) services, down payment assistance for qualifying home buyers and home rehabilitation to qualified homeowners.

201 East Oak Street, Suite 202  
Arcadia, FL  
(863)-993-4858  
[https://desotobocc.com/departments/social\\_services/social-services](https://desotobocc.com/departments/social_services/social-services)

#### All Faiths Food Bank – distribution sites

Food Finder - Current schedule of food distribution sites  
<https://allfaithsfoodbank.org/foodfinder/>

#### Salvation Army

Holiday giving, utility assistance, preventative assistance, motor vehicle repair  
165 South Orange Avenue, Arcadia, FL  
(863) 491-0455



#### SPARCC - Safe Place and Rape Crisis Center

Serve victims of intimate domestic and sexual abuse and violence. All services are free and confidential. Services include a 24-hour crisis hotline; emergency shelter; safety planning; crisis counseling; case management; information and referrals; advocacy/ accompaniment; counseling; legal services; support groups and community awareness training and prevention education.

4 W. Oak Street, Arcadia, FL      Office- (863)-494-4948  
<https://www.sparcc.net>      Helpline- (877)-365-1976

#### The Florida Center for Early Childhood/Healthy Families

A home-visiting program that guide parents who need assistance.

<https://www.thefloridacenter.org/what-we-do/healthy-families/>  
<https://www.thefloridacenter.org/what-we-do/fetal-alcohol-spectrum-disorders-clinic/> <https://www.thefloridacenter.org/what-we-do/early-childhood-court/>

10 S. DeSoto Ave, Suite E  
Arcadia, FL 34266  
(863)-491-9832

#### Florida Diagnostic and Learning Resources System (FDLRS)

Family Services include assistance in the development of family-friendly programs, training and support for services for children with disabilities, and the support of partnerships between schools and families to support student achievement.

<https://www.fdlrsheartland.org/>

#### Florida Network

The Florida Network of Youth and Family Services, Inc. (the Florida Network) is a not-for-profit statewide association representing 29 agencies that serve homeless, runaway and troubled youth ages six and older and their families.

<https://floridanetwork.org/find-help/services-by-county/>

#### Multiagency Network for Students with Emotional/Behavioral Disabilities (SEDNET)

In Florida's system of care, SEDNET works with education, mental health, child welfare, and juvenile justice professionals; along with other agencies and families, to ensure that children with mental, emotional and behavioral problems, and their families, have access to the services and supports they need to succeed.

<https://sednetfl.info/regions.aspx>



### Education

#### DeSoto County School District

530 La Salona Avenue, Arcadia, FL  
(863) 494-4222  
<https://www.desotoschools.com/>

#### DeSoto County Library

Books, magazines, visuals, audio, public computers, internet service, children's computer area with educational games. Storytelling, summer reading, arts & crafts (see calendar)

125 N. Hillsborough Avenue  
Arcadia FL  
(863) 993-4851  
<https://myhlc.org/desoto-county-library/>

#### Family Service Center

Serves adult residents by offering instructional programs of Adult General Education (ESOL/ AGE/GED), Certified Nursing Assistant (CNA) & Licensed Practical Nurse (LPN) programs

310 West Whidden Street  
Arcadia, FL  
(863) 993-1333  
<https://fsc.desotoschools.com/>

#### South Florida State College – DeSoto campus

Various degrees and programs, Dual enrollment, Trade and Industrial specializations, corporate training  
2251 NE Turner Avenue, Arcadia, FL  
(863) 993-1757  
<https://www.southflorida.edu/college/welcome>  
<https://www.southflorida.edu/current-students/degrees-programs/special-programs/corporate-education-training>

#### DeSoto School District Big Dog Tutoring Bus

Internet and Chromebook's available for student use. Information and assistance for parents is available in English and Spanish by certified teachers.  
<https://www.facebook.com/desotoschools/>

### Housing

#### Arcadia Housing Authority

Provides housing opportunities through the Public Housing Program

7 Booker T. Washington Road, Arcadia, FL  
(863) 494-4343  
<https://www.housingarcadia.com/>



#### Habitat for Humanity

Home buying opportunities and critical home repairs for qualifying individuals.

1101 West Oak Street, Arcadia, FL  
(863) 494-4118  
<https://www.habitatdesoto.org>

### Public Parks and Recreation

#### City of Arcadia Parks

Offers several locations with picnic areas, exercise stations, cement walking path, pavilions, and public restrooms.

See website for locations  
<https://arcadia-fl.gov/departments/public-works/parks-division/>



#### DeSoto County Parks

Boat ramps, baseball, soccer, volleyball, tennis, football, and miles of walking paths and trails.

See website for locations  
[https://desotobocc.com/?/departments/parks\\_recreation](https://desotobocc.com/?/departments/parks_recreation)

### Homeless Services

#### Center for the Needy

Offers food, clothing, and more  
163 South Orange Avenue, Arcadia, FL  
<https://www.arcadiacenterfortheneedy.org/>



#### DeSoto Cares Homeless Services

Offers showers, laundry, mail-boxes, internet connection, case management & referral services. Rental assistance to prevent homelessness.  
Village of Tiny Town  
159 South Orange Avenue, Arcadia, FL  
(863) 491-9333  
<https://www.desotocareshomeless.com>

### Employment

#### Goodwill

Job Connection program. Provide help with preparing a strong resume and cover letter, identify prospective employers, practice your interviewing skills for maximum impact and assist with applications.

1701 East Oak Street #B, Arcadia, FL  
<https://www.experiencegoodwill.org/contact/jobs/>



#### CareerSource Heartland

Free employment and training and related services. Internet and computer available for job seekers.  
159 South Orange Avenue  
Arcadia, FL  
(863) 491-9333  
<https://www.desotocareshomeless.com>

#### Labor Solutions

Match skills with available employment  
207 East Magnolia Street  
Arcadia, FL  
(863) 494-0400  
<https://www.laborsolutions.com/>

### Senior Services

#### Area Agency on Aging for Southwest FL

Informative web site offering seniors and their caregivers referrals to resources.  
<https://aaaswfl.org/>



#### Senior Friendship Center

Low-impact exercise classes, a walking group, arts and crafts, gardening, health screenings, opportunities to volunteer, and support groups. Home-delivered meals and case management are also offered.

917 North Arcadia Avenue, Arcadia, FL  
(863) 494-5965

#### Benefits Check Up

Informative website for seniors over 55 years of age with limited income and resources screened to see if you qualify for any of the federal, state, local & private programs that help pay for prescription drugs, utility bills, meals, health care, housing, and other needs.

The National Council on Aging  
800-794-6559  
<http://www.benefitscheckup.org/>

**Prescription Medication**

**Eckerd Pharmacy**

Free Medication Program for certain prescriptions

710 North Brevard Avenue, Arcadia, FL  
(863) 485-4150  
<https://myeckerd.com/location/arcadia/>



**Youth Services**

**Boys & Girls Clubs of Sarasota & DeSoto Counties**

Louis and Gloria Flanzer Club  
18 School Avenue, Arcadia, FL  
<https://bgcsdc.org>



**DeSoto County 4-H Clubs**

(863) 993-4846  
<https://sites.google.com/ufl.edu/desotocountyflorida4h/home>

**Early Learning Coalition of the Heartland**

Support families and children in accessing high quality early care and education services via School Readiness and Voluntary Prekindergarten programs. The ELCFH also serves as a point of contact to resources and referrals for health care and family support services.

<https://www.elcfloridasheartland.org/>



**Hospital Services**

**DeSoto Memorial Hospital**

Medicare & Medicaid counseling  
Life Improvement Program  
Tobacco Cessation

900 North Robert Avenue, Arcadia FL  
<https://www.dmh.org/contact-us>

**Legal Services**

**Informative Legal Website**

Free online legal information. Link to do-it-yourself documents

<http://www.findlaw.com/>



**Family Law**

Helpful information regarding family issues, marriage, divorce, child custody, adoption

<https://www.findlaw.com/family>

### Behavioral Health

#### DeSoto Psychiatric Services

(941) 639-8300  
www.desotopsychiatric.com  
DeSoto County's 24-Hour designated  
Mobile Crisis Unit: (941) 782-4600  
Recovery Center: (941) 347-6444  
Toll Free: 1 (877) 703-5267



### Substance Abuse

#### Drug Free DeSoto

www.drugfreedesoto.com



#### Community Care Family Counseling

725 North 12th Avenue, Bldg. B, Arcadia FL  
(863) 494-1242  
<https://mcr.health/community-care-family-clinic-counseling-services/>

#### Charlotte Behavioral Health Care

Case Management, Crisis Support/Emergency, Medical Services,  
Outpatient/Individual  
Main Number: (941) 639-8300  
<https://www.cbhcfll.org/contact/>

#### Tidewell Hospice/Empath Health

Compassionate end of life care provided in the home setting for individuals living with advanced illness and their families. Special children's program for children living with advanced illness while receiving curative treatment. No one is denied care due to inability to pay. Grief counseling provided to all community members at no cost.

919 N. Arcadia Ave, Arcadia FL  
(855)-843-3935  
Tidewellhospice.org  
Empathhealth.org

#### First Step of Sarasota

First Step of Sarasota Inc. offers innovative and comprehensive mental health and substance abuse programs for adults and children including, inpatient, outpatient and telehealth services.

4579 Northgate Ct, Sarasota FL  
(941) 366-5333

#### Hanley Center Foundation

Provides substance abuse prevention and education programs for parents, caregivers and school-age children. Provides scholarships for treatment when patients are unable to afford treatment.

<https://hanleyfoundation.org>



## **Guía de recursos comunitarios del condado de DeSoto**

*Todos merecen la  
oportunidad de vivir  
su vida de la manera  
más saludable posible.*

### Departamento de Salud de Florida en el condado DeSoto

#### Información sobre COVID-19

- <https://floridahealthcovid19.gov>

#### Servicios dentales para adultos y niños

- Limpiezas, exámenes y radiografías, empastes, extracciones, coronas y puentes, dentaduras postizas y parciales y programa dental escolar en cada escuela.



#### Salud ambiental

- Pruebas de agua, vivienda para migrantes, permisos sépticos, programa de eliminación de objetos punzocortantes, higiene alimentaria y desechos biomédicos.

#### Atención primaria para adultos y niños Women, Infants, & Children (WIC) Healthy Start

- Educación prenatal/lactancia/nutrición
- Certificados de nacimiento y defunción
- Salud femenina
- Planificación familiar
- Tratamiento y pruebas confidenciales de VIH/SIDA
- Exámenes físicos para el DOT
- Enfermedades de transmisión sexual
- Vacunas
- Salud escolar
- Agencia directriz Ryan White

#### Baldwin – Ubicación principal

34 South Baldwin Avenue, Arcadia, FL  
(863) 993-4601  
Se aceptan la mayoría de los seguros  
<https://desoto.floridahealth.gov/>

#### Clínica de Oak Street

1031 East Oak Street, Arcadia, FL  
(863) 491-7580  
Se aceptan la mayoría de los seguros  
<https://desoto.floridahealth.gov/>

### Transporte



#### DART - DeSoto - Transporte regional de Arcadia

DART es el sistema de transporte público de Arcadia, que brinda transporte al trabajo, compras, atención médica y otros servicios durante todo el día.

1-800-694-6566  
<https://desotobus.com/>

#### Traslados en el Heartland Coordinador de Transporte Comunitario

El Coordinador de Transporte Comunitario (CTC) proporciona el transporte de puerta a puerta necesario para vivir una vida saludable: citas médicas, empleo, educación, compras, actividades sociales y otros servicios de soporte vital.

(800) 260-0139  
<https://www.mtmtransit.com/heartland/>

#### Servicios de taxi privado

### Servicios alimentarios/sociales

#### United Way Suncoast

¡Llame al 211 para obtener ayuda!  
<https://www.211.org/>

#### All Faiths Food Bank – Centro de recursos y alimentos de DeSoto

Brinda ayuda con suministros de alimentos de emergencia gratuitos, junto con ayuda para solicitar beneficios públicos, como SNAP, Medicaid, TANIF, Seguro Social, discapacidad y Florida Kid Care. Apoyo con el alquiler, la hipoteca y los servicios básicos también está disponible.

1021 East Oak Street, Arcadia, FL  
(941)-379-6333  
<https://allfaithsfoodbank.org/desotofood-and-resource-center/>



#### Catholic Charities – Diocese of Venice, Inc.

Ayuda con pagos de alquiler, hipoteca y servicios básicos, junto con otras necesidades básicas de alimentos, transporte, medicamentos recetados, ayuda de inmigración, vivienda para trabajadores agrícolas, vivienda para adultos mayores y servicios de salud mental.

1210 East Oak Street, Arcadia, FL  
(863)-494-1068  
<https://catholiccharitiesdov.org/charities/catholic-charities-desoto-county/>

#### Servicios sociales del condado DeSoto

Dirige a las personas a programas de ayuda con alimentos, vivienda, transporte, servicios médicos, servicios básicos, entierro de indigentes, servicios de la Ley de Responsabilidad de Atención Médica (HRCMA), el pago inicial para compradores de vivienda que califiquen, y la rehabilitación de viviendas para propietarios que califiquen.

201 East Oak Street, Suite 202  
Arcadia, FL  
(863)-993-4858  
[https://desotobocc.com/departments/social\\_services/social-services](https://desotobocc.com/departments/social_services/social-services)

#### All Faiths Food Bank – Sitios de distribución

Buscador de alimentos – Horario actual de los sitios de distribución de alimentos.  
<https://allfaithsfoodbank.org/foodfinder/>

#### Ejército de Salvación

Donaciones durante la temporada navideña, ayuda con servicios básicos, asistencia preventiva y reparación de automóviles.  
165 South Orange Avenue, Arcadia, FL • (863) 491-0455

#### SPARCC - Safe Place and Rape Crisis Center

Atiende a víctimas de violencia y de abuso sexual y doméstico. Todos los servicios son gratuitos y confidenciales. Los servicios incluyen una línea directa de crisis disponible las 24 horas; refugio de emergencia; planificación de la seguridad; consejería para crisis; manejo de casos; información y derivaciones; abogacía/acompañamiento; consejería; servicios legales; grupos de apoyo y capacitación en concienciación comunitaria y educación preventiva.

4 W. Oak Street, Arcadia, FL Office- (863)-494-4948  
<https://www.sparcc.net> Helpline- (877)-365-1976

#### The Florida Center for Early Childhood/Healthy Families

Un programa de visitas domiciliarias que ofrece orientación a los padres que necesitan ayuda.

<https://www.thefloridacenter.org/what-we-do/healthy-families/>  
<https://www.thefloridacenter.org/what-we-do/fetal-alcohol-spectrum-disorders-clinic/>  
<https://www.thefloridacenter.org/what-we-do/early-childhood-court/>  
10 S. DeSoto Ave, Suite E, Arcadia, FL 34266 • (863)-491-9832

#### Florida Diagnostic and Learning Resources System (FDLRS)

Los servicios familiares incluyen ayuda para desarrollar programas familiares, capacitación y apoyo para obtener servicios para niños con discapacidades, y apoyo de asociaciones entre escuelas y familias para apoyar el rendimiento del estudiante.

<https://www.fdlrsheartland.org/>

#### Florida Network

The Florida Network of Youth and Family Services, Inc. (Florida Network) es una asociación estatal sin fines de lucro que representa a 29 agencias que atienden a menores sin hogar, fugitivos y con problemas de seis años en adelante y sus familias.

<https://floridanetwork.org/find-help/services-by-county/>

#### Red multiagencial para estudiantes con discapacidades emocionales/conductuales (SEDNET)

En el sistema de atención de Florida, SEDNET colabora con profesionales en educación, salud mental, bienestar infantil y justicia juvenil —junto con otras agencias y familias— para asegurar que los niños con problemas mentales, emocionales y de comportamiento, y sus familias, tengan acceso a los servicios y apoyos que necesitan para alcanzar el éxito.

<https://sednetfl.info/regions.aspx>



**Educación**

**Distrito Escolar del Condado DeSoto**

530 La Salona Avenue, Arcadia, FL  
(863) 494-4222  
<https://www.desotoschools.com/>

**Biblioteca del Condado DeSoto**

Libros, revistas, imágenes, audio, computadoras públicas, servicio de internet y área de computación infantil con juegos educativos. Cuentacuentos, lectura de verano, artes y manualidades (consulte le calendario).

125 N. Hillsborough Avenue  
Arcadia FL  
(863) 993-4851  
<https://myhlc.org/desoto-county-library/>

**Centro de Servicios Familiares**

Atiende a los residentes adultos mediante programas de instrucción de educación general para adultos (ESOL/AGE/GED), asistente de enfermería certificado (CNA) y enfermería práctica con licencia (LPN).

310 West Whidden Street  
Arcadia, FL  
(863) 993-1333  
<https://fsc.desotoschools.com/>

**South Florida State College – Campus DeSoto**

Diversos títulos y programas, matriculación dual, especializaciones en oficios e industriales, y capacitación corporativa.

2251 NE Turner Avenue, Arcadia, FL  
(863) 993-1757  
<https://www.southflorida.edu/college/welcome>  
<https://www.southflorida.edu/current-students/degrees-programs/special-programs/corporate-education-training>

**Bus de tutorías Big Dog del Distrito Escolar DeSoto**

Internet y Chromebooks disponibles para los estudiantes. Información y ayuda para padres está disponible en inglés y español por parte de maestros certificados.

<https://www.facebook.com/desotoschools/>

**Vivienda**

**Autoridad de Vivienda de Arcadia**

Brinda oportunidades de vivienda a través del Programa de Vivienda Pública.

7 Booker T. Washington Road, Arcadia, FL  
(863) 494-4343  
<https://www.housingarcadia.com/>



**Habitat for Humanity**

Oportunidades de compra de vivienda y reparaciones críticas del hogar para personas que califiquen.

1101 West Oak Street, Arcadia, FL  
(863) 494-4118  
<https://www.habitatdesoto.org>

**Parques públicos y recreación**

**Parques de la ciudad de Arcadia**

Ofrece varios lugares con áreas de picnic, estaciones de ejercicio, senderos de cemento para caminar, pabellones y baños públicos.

Consulte el sitio web para ver las ubicaciones  
<https://arcadia-fl.gov/departments/public-works/parks-division/>



**Parques del condado DeSoto**

Rampas para embarcaciones, campos de béisbol, fútbol soccer, vólibol, tenis, fútbol americano y millas de senderos para caminar.

Consulte el sitio web para ver las ubicaciones.  
[https://desotobocc.com/?/departments/parks\\_recreation](https://desotobocc.com/?/departments/parks_recreation)

### Servicios para personas sin hogar

#### Center for the Needy

Offers food, clothing, and more  
163 South Orange Avenue, Arcadia, FL  
<https://www.arcadiacenterfortheneedy.org/>



#### DeSoto Cares Homeless Services

Ofrece duchas, lavandería, -buzones de correo, conexión a Internet, manejo de casos y servicios de derivación. Ayuda con el alquiler para evitar quedarse sin hogar.  
Village of Tiny Town  
159 South Orange Avenue, Arcadia, FL  
(863) 491-9333  
<https://www.desotocareshomeless.com>



### Empleo

#### Goodwill

Programa de conexión laboral. Brinda ayuda para preparar un buen curriculum vitae y una carta de presentación, identificar a posibles empleadores, llenar solicitudes de empleo y practicar sus habilidades de entrevista para lograr el máximo impacto.

1701 East Oak Street #B, Arcadia, FL  
<https://www.experiencegoodwill.org/contact/jobs/>

#### CareerSource Heartland

Empleo y capacitación gratuitos y servicios relacionados. Internet y computadoras disponibles para quienes buscan trabajo.

159 South Orange Avenue  
Arcadia, FL  
(863) 491-9333  
<https://www.desotocareshomeless.com>

#### Labor Solutions

Vinculación de habilidades con los empleos disponibles.

207 East Magnolia Street  
Arcadia, FL  
(863) 494-0400  
<https://www.laborsolutions.com/>

### Servicios para adultos mayores

#### Area Agency on Aging for Southwest FL

Sitio web informativo que ofrece derivaciones a recursos para adultos mayores y sus cuidadores.

<https://aaaswfl.org/>



#### Senior Friendship Center

Clases de ejercicios de bajo impacto, grupo de caminatas, artes y manualidades, jardinería, exámenes de salud, oportunidades de voluntariado y grupos de apoyo. También se ofrecen comidas a domicilio y manejo de casos.

917 North Arcadia Avenue, Arcadia, FL  
(863) 494-5965

#### Benefits Check Up

Sitio web informativo para personas mayores de 55 años con ingresos y recursos limitados evaluados para determinar si califican para alguno de los programas federales, estatales, locales y privados que ayudan a pagar medicamentos recetados, facturas de servicios básicos, comidas, atención médica, vivienda y otras necesidades.

The National Council on Aging  
800-794-6559  
<http://www.benefitscheckup.org/>

### Medicamentos recetados

#### Eckerd Pharmacy

Programa de medicamentos gratuitos para ciertas recetas.

710 North Brevard Avenue, Arcadia, FL  
(863) 485-4150  
<https://myeckers.com/location/arcadia/>



### Servicios hospitalarios

#### DeSoto Memorial Hospital

Asesoría de Medicare y Medicaid  
Programa de mejora de vida  
Programa para dejar de fumar  
900 North Robert Avenue, Arcadia FL  
<https://www.dmh.org/contact-us>

### Servicios para jóvenes

#### Boys & Girls Clubs de los condados Sarasota y DeSoto

Louis and Gloria Flanzer Club  
18 School Avenue, Arcadia, FL  
<https://bgcsdc.org>



#### 4-H Clubs del condado DeSoto

(863) 993-4846  
<https://sites.google.com/ufl.edu/desotocountyflorida4h/home>

#### Early Learning Coalition of the Heartland

Apoyo a familias y niños para acceder a servicios de cuidado y educación de alta calidad a través de los programas School Readiness y Voluntary Prekindergarten. El ELCFH también sirve como punto de contacto para recursos y derivaciones para atención médica y servicios de apoyo familiar.

<https://www.elcfloridasheartland.org/>

### Servicios legales

#### Sitio informativo de asuntos legales

Información legal gratuita en línea.  
Enlace a documentos para procesos por cuenta propia.

<http://www.findlaw.com/>



#### Asuntos legales de la familia

Información útil sobre asuntos familiares, matrimonio, divorcio, custodia de los hijos y adopción.

<https://www.findlaw.com/family>

Minority Health/ Health Equity/ Healthiest Weight/ Covid Vaccine



HealthiestWeight



**Do you ever have to chose between food and other expenses?**

We screen all families to determine if there are any food needs as we have a partner who can help you by providing FREE food. Have you ever had to decide between paying rent, buying medications or childcare?

The next two questions will help us to determine your needs.

**Within the past 12 months, we worried whether our food would run out before we got money to buy more**

*Often True      Sometimes True      Never True      Don't Know/Refused*

**Within the past 12 months, the food we bought just didn't last and we didn't have money to get more**

*Often True      Sometimes True      Never True      Don't Know/Refused*

**Do you need information on where to get a Covid vaccine or a Covid test?**

*Yes      No*

**Would you like to increase your physical activity by learning simple exercise techniques you can do from home?**

*Yes      No*

**Do you face barriers to accessing healthcare or a healthy lifestyle for you or your family? If so, what prevents you?**

*Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No*

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone Number: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_