

Okeechobee County

Community Health Assessment
October 2011



**Okeechobee County Community Health Assessment
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Health Council of Southeast Florida wishes to extend our appreciation and thanks to all the organizations that participated and contributed to this comprehensive body of work, as well as for their commitment and collective efforts to improve access to health care on behalf of the residents of Okeechobee. Their insight was essential to identifying health care priorities, populations and topics of the assessment.

We are grateful to the Okeechobee County Health Department for the assistance, guidance and funding support for this process. We would like to especially acknowledge the efforts, participation and contributions of the following entities:

The Okeechobee County Health Department	19 th Judicial Circuit Court of Florida
Okeechobee County School District	Faith Farm Ministries
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Lakeshore Medical Center	Florida Rural Legal Services
Dr. Brown's Children's Center	New Horizons of Treasure Coast
211 Palm Beach/Treasure Coast	Area Agency on Aging-Okeechobee
United Way of Martin County	The Coalition for Independent Living Options
Central Florida Treatment Center	Welcome House
Economic Opportunity Council of Indian River	The Redland Migrant Center Association
Okeechobee County Sherriff's Office	YMCA

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

A community health needs assessment is a systematic method of identifying unmet health care and human service needs of a population and identifying possible interventions to meet those needs. In 2011, the Okeechobee County Health Department engaged the Health Council of Southeast Florida to facilitate a comprehensive, county-wide health needs assessment for Okeechobee County.

This community health needs assessment provided the opportunity to:

- Assess the population's health status
- Highlight areas of unmet need
- Present the community's perspectives
- Provide suggestions on possible interventions
- Highlight recommendations that policymakers might consider when setting new policy goals and objectives for health improvement activities

The report includes secondary data from national, state and local databases and when appropriate and possible, comparative information is presented. It also includes primary data that encompasses the community's perspective.

The assessment is organized into five sections:

1. Demographic and Socioeconomic Profile
2. Health Status Profile
3. Health Resource Access and Availability Profile
4. Community Perspective (including the Local Public Health System Assessment)
5. Key Issues and Recommendations

Demographic and Socioeconomic Profile

This section provides information on a number of key demographic, social and economic indicators such as population presented by various cohorts, e.g., age bands, gender and race, income, estimates of poverty, educational attainment, employment, housing and transportation.

Key findings include:

- The 2010 population in Okeechobee County was 39,996, accounting for .21% of Florida's total population.
- The population is projected to increase 9.33% by 2020.
- There is a lesser percentage of Blacks or African Americans and a greater percentage of Mexicans residing in Okeechobee than in Florida as whole.
- The population gender breakdown was 46.4% females and 53.6% males in 2010.

- Children under age 18 years of age represent the largest segment of the population in poverty.
- The per capita income for Okeechobee was \$18,713, more than a third less than the state of Florida.
- Okeechobee has a lower percentage of adults with a high school diploma as compared to Florida as a whole.
- The unemployment rate in the county was 12.7% in 2010, more than a percent higher than the state of Florida and more than 3% percent greater than the United States.
- The largest proportions of the population are employed in health care and social assistance, retail trade, construction, and agriculture, forestry, fishing, hunting and mining.
- The number of food stamp clients and food stamps issuance has increased considerably between 2008 and 2011.
- There is not currently a public transportation system for residents of Okeechobee County.

Health Status Profile

This section profiles the health status of the community and includes data on various indicators of maternal and child health, such as prenatal care access, birth rates, infant mortality, child immunization rates; behavioral health, including domestic violence, alcohol consumption, and violence and injury; hospital utilization data; and morbidity and mortality trends as reflected by data on chronic diseases, infectious diseases, and leading causes of death.

Key findings include:

Maternal & Child Health Indicators:

- A larger percentage of mothers received adequate prenatal care in 2009 than in 2007.
- The rate of live births in Okeechobee exceeded Florida in the years 2007 to 2009.
- The highest numbers of births were to mothers 20-29 years of age in 2009.
- The percentage of non-Hispanic mothers (72.5%) who received prenatal care in 2009 was higher than that of Hispanic mother (65.4%)
- The rate of births to mothers 14-18 was higher in Hispanics (69.2 per 1,000) than in non-Hispanic individuals (33.9 per 1,000).

Behavioral Health Indicators:

- Sixty percent of adults between 18 and 44 years of age have been tested for HIV.
- Over 60% of the population reported taking measures to prevent pregnancy.

Hospital Utilization Indicators:

- The leading causes of chronic disease hospitalization in Okeechobee County were asthma, congestive heart failure, diabetes, and hypertension.

- The hospitals with most chronic disease hospitalizations of Okeechobee residents were Raulerson Hospital, Lawnwood Regional Medical Center & Heart Institute, St. Lucie Medical Center and Indian River Medical Center.
- Raulerson Hospital was the most frequently visited emergency room (16,833 visits) by Okeechobee residents

Morbidity and Mortality Indicators:

- Okeechobee County has the 10th highest death rates due to coronary heart disease in the state of Florida.
- The rate of hospitalizations from coronary heart disease for White individuals was consistently lower than that of individuals who are Black or other races between 2007-2009
- The rate of hospitalizations from stroke was more than 6 times greater for individuals who are Black or other non-White races compared to White individuals
- Over one-third of the population in the county is considered to be obese. The percentage of obesity is greater than that of Florida and the United States.
- Deaths due to heart disease, malignant neoplasms, and chronic lower respiratory disease are more prevalent in the older population; however, unintentional injuries, suicide, homicide and influenza/pneumonia are causes of death in the younger age groups.
- Death rates due to cancer, coronary heart disease and unintentional injuries in Okeechobee are higher than rates for Florida as a whole.
- Age-adjusted deaths rates were greater among White individuals than individuals who are Black or other races in 2009

Health Resources Availability and Access Profile

This section provides an overview of the health resources available in Okeechobee. Specifically, there is data on licensed facilities and healthcare providers, designated Health Professional Shortage Areas (HPSA) and Medically Underserved Areas/Populations (MUA/MUP), as well as safety net providers.

Key findings include:

- Okeechobee County's hospital is Raulerson Hospital, a 100 bed facility that offers a range of inpatient and outpatient services.
- Okeechobee Healthcare Facility is the only nursing home in the county.
- There are four licensed, home health agencies located in the county.
- There is a recognized shortage of primary, dental and mental health care providers in Okeechobee County, particularly for low-income, migrant farm workers.
- An estimated 31% of Okeechobee's population is uninsured, compared to approximately 24% of Florida's population.

- A greater percentage of women (73.3%) than men (64.7%) had health coverage in 2010.
- The safety net health care providers in the county consist of the Okeechobee Health Department and the Florida Community Health Centers: Dr. Fred Brown Children's Health Centers, the Lakeshore Medical for adults and the Lakeshore Pediatrics Annex.

Community Perspective

This section provides information and primary data gathered from the various community stakeholders. Three distinct and complementary approaches were used to determine important insights.

- a) The Local Public Health System Assessment (LPHS) is one of the three assessment instruments within the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's (CDC) National Public Health Performance Standards Program (NPHPSP). The LPHS assessment instrument is based on the framework of the ten essential public health services, each of which represents a critical area of service provision. This tool provides a context for state and local partners to evaluate their current performance against a set of optimal standards.
- b) Key Informant Interviews: Informant interviews were conducted with key community stakeholders identified based on their current roles, knowledge base and understanding of the health and human services systems in Okeechobee. Their insight and perspectives were obtained through individual interviews that were conducted in person or by telephone.
- c) Focus Groups: Four focus groups were conducted to elicit ideas, attitudes, experiences and opinions of specific targeted populations. These segments of the population represent groups that may have special needs or interests that are important when effectively planning for health care services.

The Local Public Health System Assessment (Okeechobee County)

Key findings include:

Major strengths:

- Maintaining and regularly contributing to population health registries to report identified health events registries (e.g., disease and immunizations registries).
- Identifying, diagnosing and analyzing public health threats and emergencies.
- Integrating local governmental public health entities (e.g., the Okeechobee County Health Department, a local health planning council, etc.) to improve access to healthcare.
- Identifying the personal health service needs of populations who may experience barriers to personal health services.

Opportunities for improvement:

- Promoting community-wide use of the health assessment and community health profile data for systems-wide strategic planning for health improvement.
- Increasing access to geo-coded health data and using computer-generated graphics to identify trends and compare data.
- Assessing health promotion and education activities which emphasize collaboration among system partners including businesses, diverse groups and citizens.
- Strengthening the volunteer network through retention, recruitment and promotion related activities.
- Assuring linkage to needed personal services to patient populations with barriers to care. (e. g. populations with limited English proficiency, the uninsured, underinsured, homeless and disabled patient populations).
- Providing transportation services for those with special needs.

Key Informant Interviews and Focus Groups

The following are common themes that emerged:

- The cost of healthcare and lack of health insurance is viewed as one of the main barriers to accessing timely healthcare services.
- There are perceived shortages of specialists and primary care providers (internists, pediatricians, obstetricians/gynecologists, dentists, and mental health professionals in particular).
- Individuals reported that accessing dental care in their community was more difficult than any other type of care.
- People would like to go to health centers in their own neighborhoods, rather than have to travel outside of the county for certain services.
- Residents find the healthcare system challenging to navigate as they struggle to locate reliable resources and timely information.

- Participants with limited English proficiency find that communication and cultural sensitivity can interfere with the quality of care they receive.
- People reported a need for “one-stop shopping” health centers, where primary care providers and specialists could offer better coordinated care.

Key Issues and Recommendations

It is the hope and intent that policy makers and community leaders will be able to:

- Formulate goals for community health and make plans for quality improvement
- Recognize and assess the important health issues and set priorities
- Identify and devise core components of an effective action plan
- Measure progress, reassess and make further improvements

What follows is a brief summary of potential strategies that could be considered during the development of a comprehensive health improvement plan.

- Pursue start-up grant funding opportunities to expand capacity (e.g. primary care providers’ hours, multi-specialty coordinated team practices, etc.), within existing primary care settings to address the service requirements of special needs populations.
- Funding should be allocated to devise creative ways to expand transportation services to the community.
- Create a comprehensive directory of community resources available in the County.
- Increase the diversity and cultural competency of the healthcare workforce to provide culturally and linguistically appropriate services.
- Strengthen the volunteer network through retention, recruitment and promotion related activities to assist with community improvement projects. (e. g. identifying senior volunteers who own cars to assist with transportation needs of residents).
- Provide health education to diverse groups targeting health disparities within specific health populations (e. g. low-income, the uninsured, racial and ethnic minorities, the elderly, disabled, etc.) to promote healthier lifestyles.
- Expand strategic alliances and solidify partnerships among groups and associations. Such alliances should include faith-based organizations, business group networks (e.g., Okeechobee Chamber of Commerce) and others.

METHODOLOGY

At the request of the Okeechobee County Health Department, the Health Council of Southeast Florida, (HCSEF) conducted this community health needs assessment. Quantitative and qualitative methods were used to gather primary and secondary data. Data presented in the first three sections of this report: Demographic and Socioeconomic Profile, Health Status Profile, and Health Resource Availability and Access Profile, contain secondary data. Information for Community Perspectives was obtained through primary data collection methodology, including a community stakeholder meeting, focus groups, and individual interviews.

Data sources consulted for this report include, but are not limited to: The U.S. Census Bureau, The Florida Legislature, Office of Economic and Demographic Research, Florida Agency for Health Care Administration, Florida Department of Health, Office of Vital Statistics, Florida Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System Data Report, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, U.S. Department of Labor Statistics, Florida Department of Education Information and Accountability Services (EIAS), Florida Department of Law Enforcement, Florida Department Children and Families, and CLARITAS.

All data was collected and analyzed to enable healthcare providers, managers, health and program planners, local health department officials, and community leaders at regional and local levels the opportunity to identify health indicators that present areas of concern and interest for the residents of Okeechobee County. The information provided in this needs assessment may be used to identify opportunities change and improvement in future health planning activities.

DEMOGRAPHIC AND SOCIOECONOMIC PROFILE

Okeechobee County is located in the heart of the southern region of Florida. It borders the north shore of Lake Okeechobee, the 2nd largest body of fresh water in the United States. Established in 1917, the county was named after the lake. In the Hitchiti Indian language *Oka* means water and *chobi* translates as big. Okeechobee is comprised of 773.94 square miles of land and 117.63 square miles of water, for a total of 891.57 square miles. Adjacent counties include: Indian River (northeast); Martin (east); St. Lucie (east); Palm Beach (southeast); Glades (southwest); Hendry (southwest); Highlands (west); Polk (northwest); and Osceola (northwest).

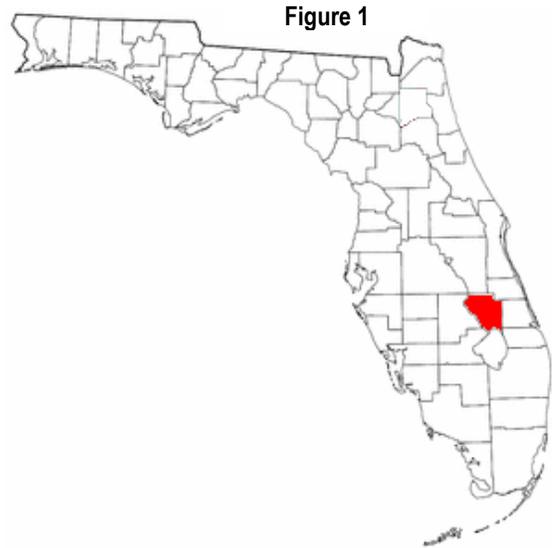


Figure 1

The demographic and socioeconomic characteristics of the residents of Okeechobee County are highlighted in this section. These characteristics are important as they provide context for the health care needs of a community and are strong indicators for health care utilization patterns and health care outcomes. Finally, knowledge about the demographic and socioeconomic profile of a community provides important information to identify specific barriers to accessing health care services.

Data in this needs assessment is presented for Okeechobee County and in some cases, the state of Florida. There are also instances when data for the county is presented and compared to other counties within the state.

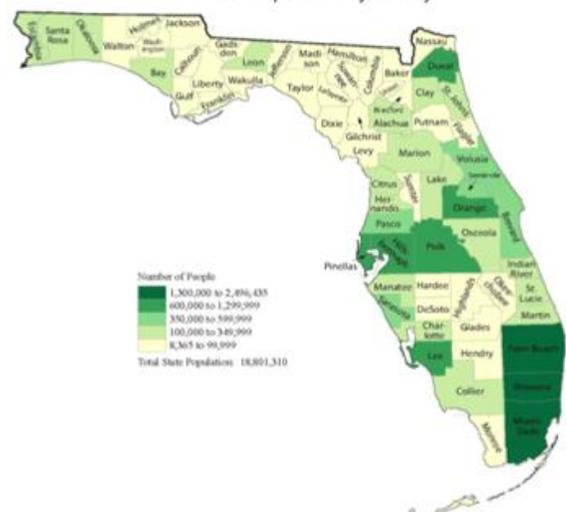
DEMOGRAPHIC CHARACTERISTICS

POPULATION

Total Population

As reflected in Table 1, the U.S. Census Bureau reported that the 2010 population of Okeechobee County was 39,996. The residents of the county account for .21% of Florida's total population of 18,801,310.

Figure 2 **FLORIDA - 2010 Census Results**
Total Population by County



Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2010 Census Population Data Summary File

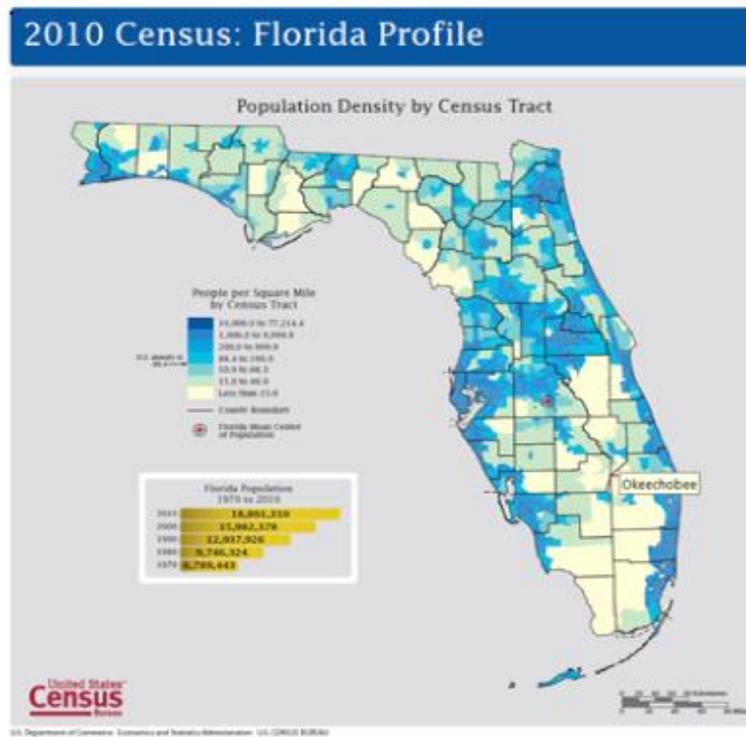
Table 1: Total Population, Okeechobee and Florida, 2010

Okeechobee		Florida	
Population	% of Florida Population	Population	% of Florida Population
39,996	0.21%	18,801,310	100%

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2010

Compiled by: Health Council of Southeast Florida, 2011

Figure 3



Population by Age

Health care needs vary greatly between age groups. Knowing the age composition of an area is important for understanding and planning for health services. Table 2 shows the populations of Okeechobee County and Florida organized by age. The highest proportion of the population in Okeechobee County falls in the 15 -19 year old range, with 7.2% of its residents in this category. The proportion of the population in Okeechobee 62 years and over is 20.3%. This is consistent with the state of Florida as a whole with 20.9% of its residents falling in the 62 year and over category. Over 28% of Okeechobee's residents are aged 55 years and older. From a health care planning perspective, this may translate into a greater need for services targeted toward this population including: assisted living, nursing home and hospice facilities. The percent of the population under 5 years is slightly higher in Okeechobee County at 6.6% than in the state of Florida as a whole, 5.7%. This may indicate an increased demand for pediatric health care services.

Table 2: Population by Age, Okeechobee County and Florida, 2010

Characteristics	Okeechobee		Florida	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Age Group				
Total population	39,996	100.0%	18,801,310	100.0%
Under 5 years	2,659	6.6%	1,073,506	5.7%
5 to 9 years	2,543	6.4%	1,080,255	5.7%
10 to 14 years	2,591	6.5%	1,130,847	6.0%
15 to 19 years	2,899	7.2%	1,228,382	6.5%
20 to 24 years	2,537	6.3%	1,228,758	6.5%
25 to 29 years	2,568	6.4%	1,179,227	6.3%
30 to 34 years	2,490	6.2%	1,110,318	5.9%
35 to 39 years	2,438	6.1%	1,178,467	6.3%
40 to 44 years	2,530	6.3%	1,252,787	6.7%
45 to 49 years	2,710	6.8%	1,401,202	7.5%
50 to 54 years	2,691	6.7%	1,340,291	7.1%
55 to 59 years	2,332	5.8%	1,202,418	6.4%
60 to 64 years	2,217	5.5%	1,135,250	6.0%
65 to 69 years	2,102	5.3%	959,233	5.1%
70 to 74 years	1,800	4.5%	768,707	4.1%
75 to 79 years	1,277	3.2%	615,514	3.3%
80 to 84 years	950	2.4%	482,023	2.6%
85 years and over	662	1.7%	434,125	2.3%
Median age (years)	38.6	N/A	40.7	N/A
16 years and over	31,663	79.2%	15,283,266	81.3%
18 years and over	30,412	76.0%	14,799,219	78.7%
21 years and over	28,798	72.0%	14,030,290	74.6%
62 years and over	8,136	20.3%	3,936,101	20.9%
65 years and over	6,791	17.0%	3,259,602	17.3%

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2010

Compiled by: Health Council of Southeast Florida, 2011

Population by Race

The diversity within an area is another important consideration for health planning, as health behavior, health care utilization, and therefore health outcomes often differ between races and ethnicities. Table 3 shows the population of Okeechobee County and the state of Florida by race. The proportion of White individuals is similar between the county and the state as a whole, with 77.5% of the individuals in the county and 75% in the state being White. There is a smaller percentage of Black or African American individuals living in Okeechobee County, 8%, compared to the state as a whole at 16%. Though the percentage of individuals identifying as Hispanic or Latino (of any race) is similar between Okeechobee County and Florida as a whole, the percentage of the population that is Mexican in Okeechobee County is 18.9%, far greater than the percentage of 3.3% for the state of Florida as a whole. From a health care perspective, this indicates an increased need for services tailored to the culture, language, health beliefs and health behaviors of that segment of the population.

Table 3: Population by Race and Ethnicity, Okeechobee and Florida, 2010

Characteristics	Okeechobee		Florida	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Total population	39,996	100.0%	18,801,310	100.0%
One Race	39,245	98.1%	18,328,733	97.5%
White	31,009	77.5%	14,109,162	75.0%
Black or African American	3,203	8.0%	2,999,862	16.0%
American Indian and Alaska Native	380	1.0%	71,458	0.4%
Asian	351	0.9%	454,821	2.4%
Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander	29	0.1%	12,286	0.1%
Native Hawaiian	14	0.0%	2,809	0.0%
Guamanian or Chamorro	2	0.0%	3,747	0.0%
Samoan	4	0.0%	1,153	0.0%
Other Pacific Islander	9	0.0%	4,577	0.0%
Some Other Race	4,273	10.7%	681,144	3.6%
Two or More Races	751	1.9%	472,577	2.5%
White; American Indian and Alaska Native	126	0.3%	55,974	0.3%
White; Asian	55	0.1%	70,932	0.4%
White; Black or African American	151	0.4%	112,370	0.6%
White; Some Other Race [3]	286	0.7%	106,667	0.6%
HISPANIC OR LATINO				
Total population	39,996	100.0%	18,801,310	100.0%
Hispanic or Latino (of any race)	9,561	23.9%	4,223,806	22.5%
Mexican	7,575	18.9%	629,718	3.3%
Puerto Rican	526	1.3%	847,550	4.5%
Cuban	519	1.3%	1,213,438	6.5%
Other Hispanic or Latino [5]	941	2.4%	1,533,100	8.2%
Not Hispanic or Latino	30,435	76.1%	14,577,504	77.5%

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2010

Compiled by: Health Council of Southeast Florida, 2011

Population by Gender

In 2010, the population of Okeechobee County consisted of 46.4% females and 53.6% males. This differs slightly from the state of Florida as a whole, where the percentage of females is slightly greater at 51.1% than that of males at 48.9%.

Table 4: Population by Gender, Okeechobee and Florida, 2010

Characteristics	Okeechobee		Florida	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Male	21,430	53.6%	9,189,355	48.9%
Female	18,566	46.4%	9,611,955	51.1%
Total	39,996	100.0%	18,801,310	100.00%

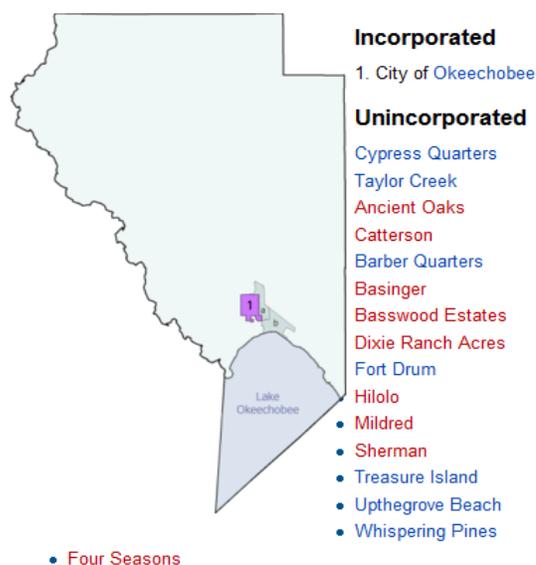
Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2010
Compiled by: Health Council of Southeast Florida, 2011

Population by Municipality

The U.S. Census Bureau computes population density by dividing the total population or number of housing units within a geographic entity by the land area of that entity measured in square miles. Density is expressed as “population per square mile”. An incorporated area generally consists of a density of at least 1,000 persons per square mile. This is a region that is subject to taxes, has a separate police force and other powers conferred by the State.

An unincorporated area of land is a region that is not part of a municipality and therefore not subject to or taxed by a municipal government.¹

Figure 4: Municipalities



Source: en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Okeechobee_County,_Florida

The City of Okeechobee is the only incorporated city in Okeechobee County.² In 2010, approximately 14% of Okeechobee County’s residents lived in incorporated areas with the remaining approximately 86% living in unincorporated areas of the county. Between 2000 and 2010, the population growth in unincorporated areas exceeded that of the incorporated areas.

¹ http://www.census.gov/geo/www/2010census/gtc_10.pdf

² www.floridacounty.org

Table 5. Census Population Counts by County and City in Florida, April 1, 2000 and 2010

	April 1, 2000	April 1, 2010	Total Change	Percent Change
County and City				
Okeechobee (Incorporated)	5,376	5,621	245	4.6%
Okeechobee (Unincorporated)	30,534	34,375	3,841	12.6%
Okeechobee	35,910	39,996	4,086	11.4%

Source: Bureau of Economic & Business Research, 2010
 Compiled by: Health Council of Southeast Florida, 2011

POPULATION PROJECTIONS / POPULATION GROWTH

Table 6 shows the U.S. Census Bureau's projected population growth in Okeechobee County by age over two decades beginning with actual census data from 2010. Though the total population is projected to increase 9.33% by 2020 and 18.13% by 2030, there are subgroups of the population which will increase and decrease at disproportionate rates and this can have implications for health care planning. The age groups 40 - 44, 45 - 49 and 50 - 54 are anticipated to have negative growth between 2010 and 2020 with a -2.72% change in the 40 - 44 age group, a -12.37% change in the 45 - 49 age group and a -4.32% change in the 50 - 54 age group. Conversely, between 2010 and 2020 the 65 - 69 age group is projected to increase by 24.55%, the 70-74 age group by 18.28% and the 75+ age group by 20.89%. Health care planning in Okeechobee County would benefit by considering and addressing the likely increase in demand for health care services tailored to these age groups over the next decade and through to 2030.

Table 6: Population Growth by Age, Okeechobee County, 2010 – 2030

Age	2010 Census	2015 Projection	2020 Projection	2025 Projection	2030 Projection	% Change 2010-2020	% Change 2010-2030
0-4	2,718	2,813	2,848	2,841	2,845	4.78%	4.67%
5-9	2,571	2,739	2,862	2,906	2,908	11.32%	13.11%
10-14	2,709	2,682	2,871	3,003	3,056	5.98%	12.81%
15-19	3,031	2,972	3,010	3,200	3,340	-0.69%	10.19%
20-24	2,711	2,910	2,844	2,916	3,094	4.91%	14.13%
25-29	2,624	2,749	2,886	2,820	2,898	9.98%	10.44%
30-34	2,222	2,475	2,571	2,670	2,592	15.71%	16.65%
35-39	2,237	2,335	2,536	2,647	2,715	13.37%	21.37%
40-44	2,427	2,311	2,361	2,568	2,691	-2.72%	10.88%
45-49	2,765	2,555	2,423	2,484	2,694	-12.37%	-2.57%
50-54	2,661	2,778	2,546	2,418	2,484	-4.32%	-6.65%
55-59	2,143	2,604	2,702	2,472	2,349	26.08%	9.61%
60-64	1,970	2,135	2,568	2,656	2,426	30.36%	23.15%
65-69	1,715	1,950	2,136	2,550	2,632	24.55%	53.47%
70-74	1,614	1,636	1,909	2,105	2,496	18.28%	54.65%
75+	3,581	3,956	4,329	4,943	5,677	20.89%	58.53%
Total	39,699	41,600	43,402	45,199	46,897	9.33%	18.13%

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2010
 Compiled by: Health Council of Southeast Florida, 2011

SOCIOECONOMIC CHARACTERISTICS

Socioeconomic status affects a variety of factors which ultimately influence health outcomes. Among the socioeconomic variables presented and analyzed herein include measures on poverty, income levels, education, employment/unemployment status, public assistance benefits housing, uncompensated care, crime, etc. Each of these variables can correlate with the health status of any given population. What follows provides a snapshot on specific socio-economic measures.

POVERTY

This focus area measures a community's ability to meet basic needs necessary to maintain health. Poverty is commonly considered insufficient income to meet the needs for food, clothing, and shelter. Poverty creates many difficulties for individuals, families and the communities in which they live. Poverty often hinders access to a variety of services and products, such as proper medical care and nutrition which results in less favorable health outcomes for those affected. There are different terms commonly used to reflect certain levels of poverty. The U.S. Census Bureau employs 'poverty thresholds' which are statistical calculations used to ascertain the number of poor persons. The Department of Health and Human Services uses 'poverty guidelines' to determine eligibility for certain programs.³

Table 7, shows the Health and Human Services 2011 poverty guidelines.

Persons in Family	48 Contiguous States and D.C.	Alaska	Hawaii
1	\$10,890	\$13,600	\$12,540
2	\$14,710	\$18,380	\$16,930
3	\$18,530	\$23,160	\$21,320
4	\$22,350	\$27,940	\$25,710
5	\$26,170	\$32,720	\$30,100
6	\$29,990	\$37,500	\$34,490
7	\$33,810	\$42,280	\$38,880
8	\$37,630	\$47,060	\$43,270
For each additional person, add	\$3,820	\$4,780	\$4,390

Source: *Federal Register*, Vol. 76, No. 13, January 20, 2011, pp. 3637-3638

³ <http://aspe.hhs.gov/poverty/faq.shtml#programs>

Poverty by Household

Table 8 shows the 2010 poverty thresholds used by U.S Census Bureau.

Table 8 : Poverty Thresholds for 2010 by Size of Family and Number of Related Children Under 18 Years

Size of family unit	Weighted Average Thresholds	Related children under 18 years								
		None	One	Two	Three	Four	Five	Six	Seven	Eight or more
One person	\$11,139									
Under 65	\$11,344	\$11,344								
65+	\$10,458	\$10,458								
Two people	\$14,218									
Householder under 65	\$14,676	\$14,602	\$15,030							
Householder 65+	\$13,194	\$13,180	\$14,973							
Three people	\$17,374	\$17,057	\$17,552	\$17,568						
Four people	\$22,314	\$22,491	\$22,859	\$22,113	\$22,190					
Five people	\$26,439	\$27,123	\$27,518	\$26,675	\$26,023	\$25,625				
Six people	\$29,897	\$31,197	\$31,320	\$30,675	\$30,056	\$29,137	\$28,591			
Seven people	\$34,009	\$35,896	\$36,120	\$35,347	\$34,809	\$33,805	\$32,635	\$31,351		
Eight people	\$37,934	\$40,146	\$40,501	\$39,772	\$39,133	\$38,227	\$37,076	\$35,879	\$35,575	
Nine+ people	\$45,220	\$48,293	\$48,527	\$47,882	\$47,340	\$46,451	\$45,227	\$44,120	\$43,845	\$42,156

Source: US Census Bureau, 2010

Individuals in Poverty/ Children in Poverty

This focus area measures the percent of children in poverty, as defined by the federal poverty threshold. Table 9 shows estimated counts and percentages of people in poverty in Okeechobee County, the state of Florida and the United States in 2009. The counts and percentages of people in poverty are shown for the entire population, i.e. all ages, as well as different age groups which represent children: Under Age 18 and Ages 5-17. In all categories shown, the percentage of individuals in poverty in Okeechobee County exceeds both that of the state of Florida and the nation as a whole. The largest disparities were seen in the 5-17 age group where that percentage of poverty in Okeechobee was 30.5% while the percentages in Florida and the United States were both under 20%. According to this data, the under age 18 group has the largest percentage of the population in poverty with 31.7%. Across all ages the percentage of poverty in Okeechobee County was 22.3%, this is greater than both Florida and the United States with percentages of 15.0% and 14.3%, respectively.

Table 9 : Poverty and Median Income Estimates, 2009

	Okeechobee	Florida	United States
Poverty Estimate All Ages	8,388	2,712,692	42,868,163
Poverty Percent All Ages	22.3%	15.0%	14.3%
Poverty Estimate Under Age 18	3,075	857,326	14,656,962
Poverty Percent Under Age 18	31.7%	21.5%	20.0%
Poverty Estimate Ages 5-17	2,015	556,711	9,509,142
Poverty Percent Ages 5-17	30.5%	19.7%	18.2%
Median Household Income	\$35,349	\$44,755	\$50,221

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Small Area Estimates Branch, Internet Release date: December 2010
 Compiled by: Health Council of Southeast Florida, 2011

INCOME

Income and financial resources are important to health, allowing individuals to obtain health insurance, pay for medical care, afford healthy food, safe housing, and to access other basic goods.

Per capita income is calculated by adding all income in an area and dividing by the total population. While per capita income provides some indication of wealth in an area, it does not provide insight into the distribution of that wealth or the disparities within an area.

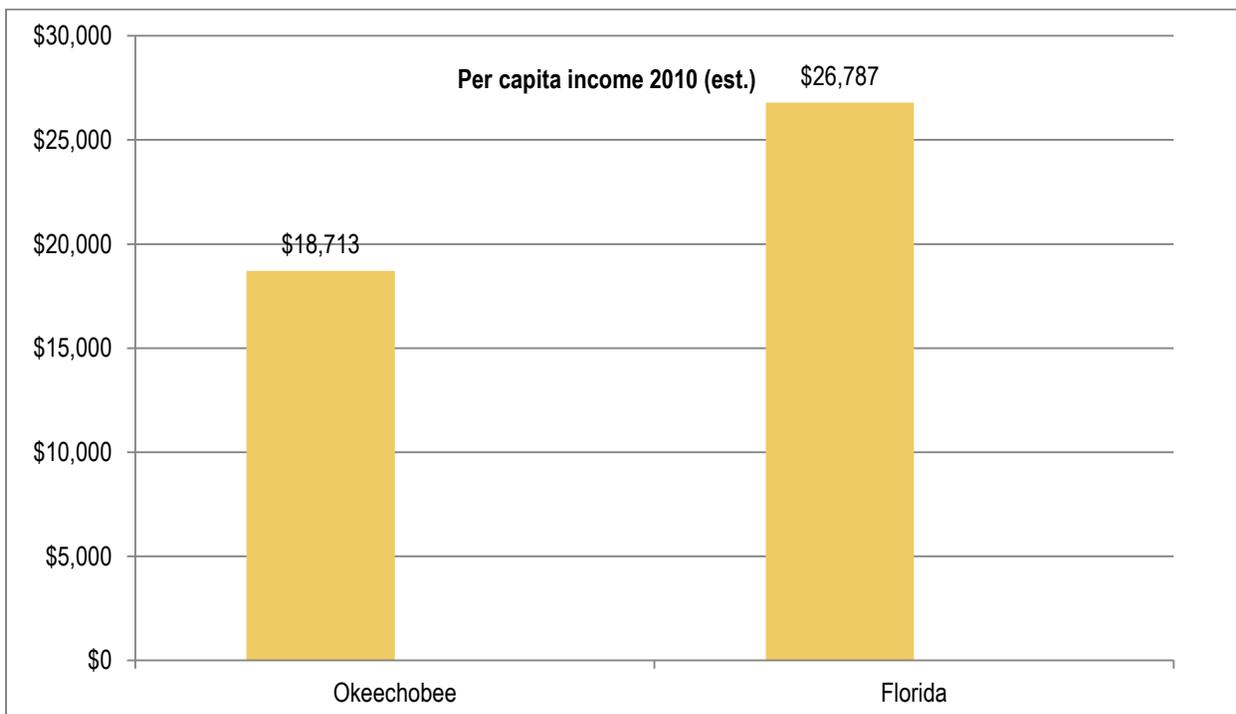
Table 10 shows the per capita income in Okeechobee and Florida. Okeechobee County's per capita income was \$18,713, more than 30% less than the state of Florida's per capita income of \$26,787. Figure 5 charts the per capita income data.

Table 10: Per Capita Income, 2010 Estimates, Okeechobee, Florida

	Okeechobee	Florida
Per capita income	\$18,713	\$26,787

Source: Nielsen Company, Nielson Solutions, Claritas, 2011
Compiled by: Health Council of Southeast Florida, 2011

Figure 5



Median Household Income

Household income reflects the totaled amount of income of all workers within a household. Median household income is used to depict the middle point of household income distribution within a given area. In other words, it is the amount that would divide the income distribution within an area into two groups. This measure is not as affected by a few extreme values as an average, such as per capita income.

Table 11 shows counts and the percentage of households in Okeechobee by household income using data from the 2000 Census, estimating 2010 and projecting to 2015. The table also shows 2000 census data for average household income, median household income and per capita income. The percentage of households in the lowest three income categories are all projected to decrease. The percentage of households in the \$35,000 - \$49,999 is projected to remain fairly steady through 2015 at around 17%. In 2015, the largest segment of households is expected to fall into the \$50,000 - \$74,999 household income category at 18.67% followed by the \$35,000 - \$49,999 category at 17.87%. This is a shift from the year 2000 where the highest percentage of households was in the lowest income category of less than \$15,000. The average household income was \$40,600 in 2000 and is projected to increase to \$57,296 by 2015. Median household income was \$31,178 in 2000 and is projected to be \$43,317 in 2015. Per capita income in projected to be \$20,606 in 2015, an increase from \$14,553 in 2000.

Table 11: Households by Household Income Including Projections, Okeechobee, 2000 - 2015

	2000 Census	% of Pop.	2010 Est.	% of Pop.	2015 Projection	% of Pop.
	12,614		14,399		15,308	
Income Less than \$15,000	2,513	19.92%	2,066	14.35%	2,003	13.08%
Income \$15,000 - \$24,999	2,470	19.58%	2,102	14.60%	1,972	12.88%
Income \$25,000 - \$34,999	2,143	16.99%	2,199	15.27%	2,162	14.12%
Income \$35,000 - \$49,999	2,186	17.33%	2,534	17.60%	2,736	17.87%
Income \$50,000 - \$74,999	2,007	15.91%	2,663	18.49%	2,858	18.67%
Income \$75,000 - \$99,999	626	4.96%	1,455	10.10%	1,631	10.65%
Income \$100,000 - \$124,999			560	3.89%	844	5.51%
Income \$100,000 - \$149,999	462	3.66%				
Income \$125,000 - \$149,999			352	2.44%	431	2.82%
Income \$150,000 - \$199,999			248	1.72%	355	2.32%
Income \$150,000 - \$249,999	168	1.33%				
Income \$200,000 - \$499,999			187	1.30%	264	1.72%
Income \$250,000 - \$499,999	35	0.28%				
Income \$500,000 or more	4	0.03%	33	0.23%	52	0.34%
Average Household Income	\$40,600		\$52,080		\$57,296	
Median Household Income	\$31,178		\$39,928		\$43,317	
Per Capita Income	\$14,553		\$18,713		\$20,606	

Source: Nielsen Company, Nielson Solutions, Claritas, 2011

Table 12 shows median household income in Okeechobee County by race and ethnicity for the years: 2000 (actual), 2010 (estimates), and 2015 (projections). In 2010, the households with two or more races have the lowest estimated median household income at \$26,667. In 2010, households with only white individuals had an estimated household income of \$40,369 while households with only black or African American individuals had an estimated household income of \$34,167, and Hispanic or Latino households had an estimated household income of \$37,477. Median household income across all categories, except for American Indian and Alaska Natives and Native Hawaiian and other Pacific Islanders, are expected to increase between 2010 and 2015.

Table 12: Median Household Income by Race and Ethnicity, 2000, 2010 Estimate

	2000 Census	2010 Estimate	2015 Projection
White Alone	\$31,382.00	\$40,369.00	\$ 43,648.00
Black or African American Alone	\$27,988.00	\$34,167.00	\$ 39,203.00
American Indian and Alaska Native Alone	\$14,999.00	\$31,667.00	\$ 23,913.00
Asian Alone	\$82,422.00	\$90,625.00	\$112,500.00
Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander	\$42,500.00	\$68,750.00	\$ 62,500.00
Some Other Race Alone	\$30,679.00	\$38,969.00	\$ 42,922.00
Two or More Races	\$20,727.00	\$26,667.00	\$ 29,627.00
Hispanic or Latino	\$30,398.00	\$37,477.00	\$ 40,090.00
Not Hispanic or Latino	\$31,325.00	\$40,586.00	\$ 44,304.00

Source: Nielsen Company, Nielson Solutions, Claritas, 2011
 Compiled by Health Council of Southeast Florida

EDUCATION

Educational Attainment

Educational attainment is often closely related to socioeconomic status, and less education can affect employability and is often correlated with lower income earning capacity, contributing to a lower socioeconomic status. Less educational attainment and lower socioeconomic status often affect access to health care services, thereby having the potential to impact health outcomes.

Table 13 shows that 12.3% of the population 25 years and older in Okeechobee County have less than a 9th grade education, and 15.8% have some high school classwork but have not received a diploma. In total, 71.9% of individuals over 25 years of age in Okeechobee have a high school diploma or higher.

Table 13: School Enrollment and Educational Attainment, Okeechobee County, Florida, 2007-2009

	Okeechobee		Florida	
	Estimate	Percent	Estimate	Percent
SCHOOL ENROLLMENT				
Population 3 years and over enrolled in school	8,393	8,393	4,387,509	4,387,509
Nursery school, preschool	427	5.10%	291,235	6.60%
Kindergarten	372	4.40%	216,727	4.90%
Elementary school (grades 1-8)	4,549	54.20%	1,786,913	40.70%
High school (grades 9-12)	1,937	23.10%	922,590	21.00%
College or graduate school	1,108	13.20%	1,170,044	26.70%
EDUCATIONAL ATTAINMENT				
Population 25 years and over	26,099	26,099	12,683,655	12,683,655
Less than 9th grade	3,213	12.30%	734,471	5.80%
9th to 12th grade, no diploma	4,120	15.80%	1,147,562	9.00%
High school graduate (inc equivalency)	10,226	39.20%	3,864,050	30.50%
Some college, no degree	4,649	17.80%	2,609,218	20.60%
Associate's degree	1,174	4.50%	1,069,865	8.40%
Bachelor's degree	1,931	7.40%	2,119,530	16.70%
Graduate or professional degree	786	3.00%	1,138,959	9.00%
Percent high school graduate or higher	71.90%	(X)	85.20%	(X)
Percent bachelor's degree or higher	10.40%	(X)	25.70%	(X)

Source: US Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 2007-2009
 Compiled by: Health Council of Southeast Florida, 2011

High School Graduation Rates

Table 14 shows high school graduation rates using the Florida calculation. In the 2009-2010 school year, the graduation rate in Okeechobee was 71.7%, up from 62.8% in the 2005-2006 school year.

Table 14: Graduation Rates by District, Florida's Calculation, 2005-06 through 2009-10

	2005-06	2006-07	2007-08	2008-09	2009-10*
Okeechobee	62.8%	64.0%	70.7%	69.3%	71.7%
Florida	71.0%	72.4%	75.4%	78.6%	80.7%

*Source: 2009-10 Florida Department of Education (FL DOE) cohort graduation data as of 10/27/10.
Compiled by: Health Council of Southeast Florida, 2011

Table 15 shows the percentage of total individuals and percentage by gender, living in poverty according to levels of educational attainment. In Okeechobee County, 28.9% of individuals with less than a high school diploma are living in poverty. The percentage is 32.3% for females. The number of individuals in poverty decreases considerably in individuals with a high school diploma or the equivalent and is 10.9% in Okeechobee County.

Table 15: Poverty Rate for the Population 25 Years and Over for Whom Poverty Status is Determined, by Education Level, 2005-2009

	Okeechobee			Florida		
	Total	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female
Less than high school graduate	28.90%	26.80%	32.30%	23.10%	19.50%	26.70%
High school graduate (includes equivalency)	10.90%	9.30%	12.40%	12.00%	10.10%	13.60%
Some college or associate's degree	5.70%	4.50%	6.70%	7.90%	6.40%	9.20%
Bachelor's degree or higher	3.50%	4.90%	2.30%	4.50%	3.90%	5.10%

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey 2005-2009
Compiled by: Health Council of Southeast Florida, 2011

School Performance

Table 16 shows accountability reports for local schools in Okeechobee County from the Florida Department of Education. Central Elementary, Seminole Elementary, South Elementary and Yearling Middle School all received grades of “A” for the 2010-2011 school year. Osceola Middle School was the only school given a grade of “C”.

Table 16: Accountability Reports for Local Schools, SY 2010-2011

School	Level	Grade	% Meeting High Standards in Reading	% Meeting High Standards in Math	% Meeting High Standards in Writing	% Meeting High Standards in Science	Free and Reduced Lunch	Minority Rate
CENTRAL ELEMENTARY SCHOOL	Elementary	A	72%	74%	81%	40%	79	57
EVERGLADES ELEMENTARY SCHOOL	Elementary	B	69%	67%	88%	34%	82	40
NORTH ELEMENTARY SCHOOL	Elementary	B	73%	76%	77%	48%	75	49
SEMINOLE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL	Elementary	A	63%	78%	75%	46%	90	61
SOUTH ELEMENTARY SCHOOL	Elementary	A	75%	80%	82%	40%	73	43
OSCEOLA MIDDLE SCHOOL	Middle	C	60%	60%	80%	41%	67	41
YEARLING MIDDLE SCHOOL	Middle	A	72%	67%	83%	47%	69	48
OKEECHOBEE HIGH SCHOOL	High	N/A*	38%	75%	76%	43%	55	37

* Data not available at time report was published.

Source: Florida Department of Education, School Accountability Report, SY 2010-2011

Compiled by: Health Council of Southeast Florida, 2011

Standardized Test Scores

Table 17 shows mean SAT scores for students in Okeechobee County and Florida.

Table 17: Florida SAT District Mean Scores, Okeechobee, Florida 2011

District Name	Percentage of SAT Test Takers	Reading Mean Score	Math Mean Score	Writing Mean Score
Okeechobee	45.2%	446	464	424
Florida *	52.9%	497	496	476

Source: Florida Department of Education, 2011

* Means and totals were calculated using information available in the original table

Compiled by: Health Council of Southeast Florida, 2011

Table 18 shows mean ACT scores for high schools seniors in Okeechobee County and Florida in 2011. The composite mean score in Okeechobee was 18.5 and the state of Florida as a whole was 19.3. Mean math and science scores were similar between the county and the state (19.1, 19.4) and (18.4 and 18.7), respectively.

Table 18: Mean ACT Scores for Seniors by County, 2011

	% of ACT Test Takers	English Mean Score	Math Mean Score	Reading Mean Score	Science Mean Score	Composite Mean Score
Okeechobee	47.2%	17.3	19.1	18.7	18.4	18.5
Florida *	61.5%	18.4	19.4	20.0	18.7	19.3

Source: Florida Department of Education, 2011

*Means and totals were calculated using information available in the original table

Compiled by: Health Council of Southeast Florida, 2011

BUSINESS AND EMPLOYMENT

Unemployment

High rates of unemployment can affect the financial stability of individuals within a community and can lead to a decrease in expenditures on health care and can cause a greater number of individuals to be uninsured. Table 19 shows counts of employment and unemployment and rates of unemployment in the civilian labor force in the United States, Florida and Okeechobee County from 2005 to 2010. Unemployment rates have increased in all areas shown. In 2010 the unemployment rate in Okeechobee County was 12.7%, more than a percent higher than the state of Florida as a whole at 11.5% and more than three percent greater the United States at 9.6%. The number of unemployed individuals in Okeechobee County nearly tripled between 2005 and 2010. During the same time the number of unemployed individuals in the state of Florida as a whole slightly more than tripled and the number in the United States nearly doubled.

Table 19: Annual Not Seasonally Adjusted Labor Force, Employment and Unemployment data in Okeechobee, Florida, United States, 2005-2010

Year	Civilian Labor Force	Employment	Unemployment	Unemployment Rate (%)
United States				
2010	153,889,000	139,064,000	14,825,000	9.6%
2009	154,142,000	139,877,000	14,265,000	9.3%
2008	154,287,000	145,362,000	8,924,000	5.8%
2007	153,124,000	146,047,000	7,078,000	4.6%
2006	151,428,000	144,427,000	7,001,000	4.6%
2005	149,320,000	141,730,000	7,591,000	5.1%
Florida				
2010	9,224,000	8,159,000	1,065,000	11.5%
2009	9,139,000	8,209,000	930,000	10.2%
2008	9,193,000	8,621,000	572,000	6.2%
2007	9,069,000	8,704,000	365,000	4.0%
2006	8,880,000	8,584,000	296,000	3.3%
2005	8,635,000	8,305,000	330,000	3.8%
Okeechobee County				
2010	18,987	16,570	2,417	12.7%
2009	18,248	16,145	2,103	11.5%
2008	17,618	16,212	1,406	8.0%
2007	17,402	16,524	878	5.0%
2006	17,266	16,566	700	4.1%
2005	17,077	16,265	812	4.8%

Source: Florida Research Economic Database (FRED), Labor Market Statistics, Local Area Unemployment Statistics Program, 2010

Compiled by: Health Council of Southeast Florida, 2011

Table 20 shows that as of August 2011, Okeechobee County is ranked as having the 6th highest unemployment rate at 12.7% among Florida counties, which is 2% higher than the state of Florida at 10.9% and 3.8% percent greater when compared to the nation as a whole at 9.1%.

Table 20: Florida Counties Ranked by Unemployment Rate (not seasonally adjusted), August 2011 (preliminary)

Rank	County	Unemployment Rate	Rank	County	Unemployment Rate
1	Henry	17.9%	35	Pinellas	10.7%
2	Flagler	14.9%	36	Gadsden	10.6%
3	Indian River	13.9%	37	Columbia	10.6%
4	Hernando	13.9%	38	Escambia	10.4%
5	St. Lucie	13.7%	39	Orange	10.3%
6	Okeechobee	12.9%	40	Gulf	10.2%
7	Hamilton	12.9%	41	Suwannee	10.1%
8	Marion	12.7%	42	Santa Rosa	10.0%
9	Miami-Dade	12.5%	43	Baker	9.9%
10	Highlands	12.3%	44	Gihchrist	9.9%
11	Madison	12.3%	45	Seminole	9.6%
12	Dixie	12.2%	46	Bay	9.5%
13	Polk	12.1%	47	Broward	9.5%
14	Pasco	12.0%	48	Nassau	9.3%
15	Hardee	11.9%	49	Clay	9.2%
16	Collier	11.9%	50	Glades	9.2%
17	Putnam	11.8%	51	Bradford	9.2%
18	Desoto	11.8%		United States	9.1%
19	Citrus	11.8%	52	Jefferson	9.0%
20	Brevard	11.7%	53	Calhoun	9.0%
21	Lee	11.5%	54	Jackson	9.0%
22	Manatee	11.4%	55	St. Johns	8.6%
23	Levy	11.3%	56	Leon	8.5%
24	Charlotte	11.3%	57	Union	8.5%
25	Osceola	11.2%	58	Sumter	8.4%
26	Duval	11.1%	59	Alachua	8.3%
27	Martin	11.1%	60	Holmes	8.3%
28	Washington	11.0%	61	Wakulla	8.2%
29	Palm Beach	11.0%	62	Franklin	8.2%
30	Taylor	11.0%	63	Lafayette	7.7%
31	Volusia	10.9%	64	Okaloosa	7.4%
	Florida	10.9%	65	Liberty	7.1%
32	Sarasota	10.8%	66	Walton	7.0%
33	Lake	10.8%	67	Monroe	6.7%
34	Hillsborough	10.7%			

Source: Florida Agency for Workforce Innovation, Labor Market Statistics Center, Local Area Unemployment Statistics Program

Compiled by: Health Council of Southeast Florida, 2011

Employer Size & Industry

Table 21 shows the major industries in Okeechobee County along with average number of establishments, average number of employees and average wage. The largest segment of those employed in Okeechobee County is in the health care and social assistance field with an average employment of 1,471 individuals in 2010. Closely following is the retail trade industry with an average of 1,464 individuals. Of the top 10 industries, by number of employees, the greatest average weekly wage is in public administration with an average of \$757 a week, followed by manufacturing with an average weekly wage of \$746 while the lowest is in the accommodation and food services field with an average wage of \$254.

Table 21: 2010 Quarterly Census of Employment and Wages, Sector (2 digit) data for Okeechobee County, All Ownerships.

Industry	Average Establishments	Average Employment	Average Weekly Wage
Health Care and Social Assistance	91	1,471	\$719
Retail Trade	155	1,464	\$459
Agriculture, Forestry, Fishing & Hunting	77	1,266	\$509
Public Administration	38	1,090	\$757
Accommodation and Food Services	66	956	\$254
Construction	118	541	\$579
Administrative and Waste Services	70	443	\$605
Manufacturing	33	358	\$746
Transportation and Warehousing	39	318	\$858
Arts, Entertainment, and Recreation	16	284	\$558
Other Services, Ex. Public Admin	79	255	\$489
Professional and Technical Services	56	218	\$609
Wholesale Trade	38	197	\$647
Finance and Insurance	31	189	\$763
Real Estate and Rental and Leasing	38	92	\$575
Information	8	90	\$740
Utilities	5	77	\$948
Mining	4	30	\$588
Educational Services	***	***	***
Unclassified	***	***	***

Source: FL Labor Market Statistics, Quarterly Census of Employment and Wages Program, 2010

Note: Asterisks indicate non-disclosable data

Compiled by: Health Council of Southeast Florida, 2011

Table 22 shows the occupations within the major industries in Okeechobee County and the percentage of employees, within a given industry, working in the various occupations. The highest percentage of the population, accounting for over a quarter of the employed civilian workforce is working in the “service” occupations.

Table 22: Industry by Occupation for the Civilian Employed Population, Okeechobee, 2005-2009 5-Year Estimates

Subject	Total	Mgmt, professional, & related	Service	Sales and office	Farming, fishing, & forestry	Construction, extraction, maintenance, & repair	Production, transportation, & material moving
Civilian employed population 16 years and over	16,168	21.10%	26.10%	22.40%	6.60%	11.60%	12.20%
Agriculture, forestry, fishing and hunting, and mining	1,804	15.20%	11.90%	7.90%	58.30%	3.90%	2.90%
Construction	1,884	14.80%	2.50%	4.40%	0.00%	70.40%	7.90%
Manufacturing	441	13.80%	4.10%	9.30%	0.00%	4.30%	68.50%
Wholesale trade	520	8.10%	8.30%	55.20%	4.20%	0.00%	24.20%
Retail trade	1,893	7.50%	0.80%	62.60%	0.00%	9.60%	19.40%
Transportation and warehousing, and utilities	784	6.30%	0.00%	44.30%	0.00%	0.00%	49.50%
Information	54	74.10%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	25.90%	0.00%
Finance and insurance, and real estate and rental and leasing	548	18.10%	0.00%	80.10%	0.00%	1.80%	0.00%
Professional, scientific, and management, and administrative and waste management services	1,303	21.40%	54.60%	12.70%	0.00%	3.50%	7.70%
Educational services, and health care and social assistance	2,884	51.10%	30.00%	13.20%	0.00%	0.60%	5.10%
Arts, entertainment, and recreation, and accommodation and food services	1,623	10.40%	72.50%	11.80%	0.00%	0.70%	4.70%
Other services, except public administration	1,035	14.20%	29.70%	15.20%	0.00%	15.70%	25.20%
Public administration	1,395	25.10%	58.80%	14.40%	0.00%	1.70%	0.00%
PERCENT IMPUTED							
Industry	4.00%	(X)	(X)	(X)	(X)	(X)	(X)

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2005-2009 American Community Survey, 2009
 Compiled by: Health Council of Southeast Florida, 2011

PUBLIC ASSISTANCE BENEFITS

RFAs are used to assist the Department of Children and Families and the Department of Health in the implementation of evidence-based home visit services specified in the Affordable Care Act to the individuals and families in need.⁴

Table 23 shows the total number of RFAs, Request for Applications, in the years 2008, 2009 and 2010 in Okeechobee County and in Florida. The RFAs in Okeechobee decreased 77% from year 2008 to 2010, during the same time the number of RFAs in Florida increased 19%. Figures 6 and 7 show the monthly trends of RFA applications from January 2008 through August 2011 for Okeechobee and Florida.

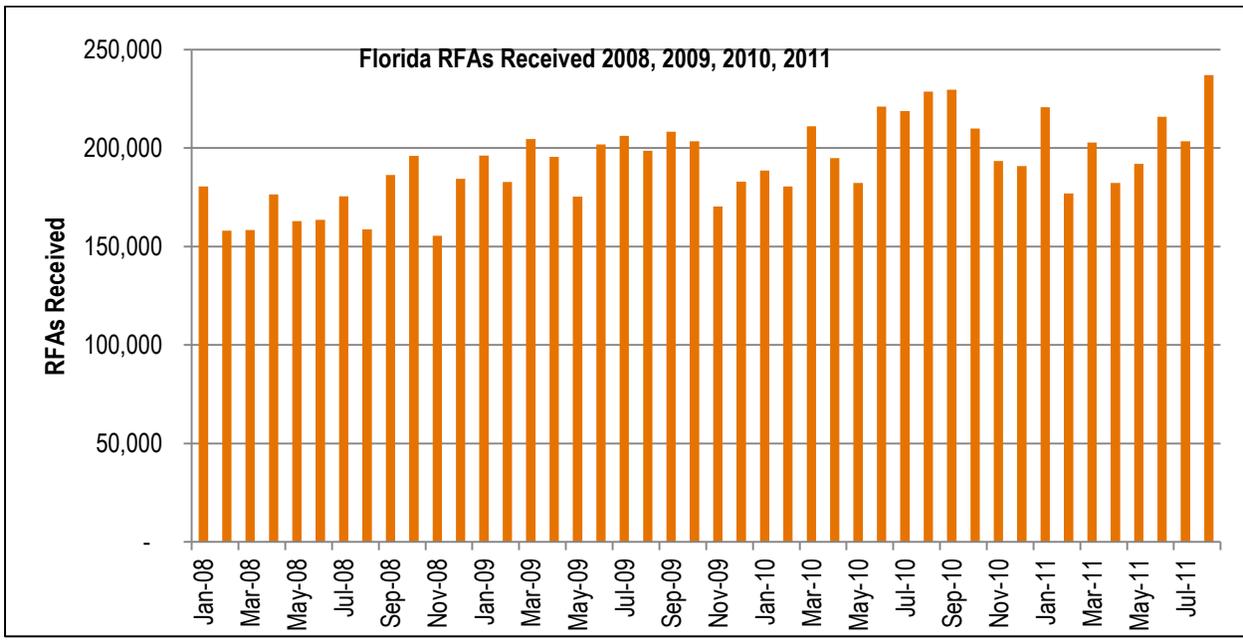
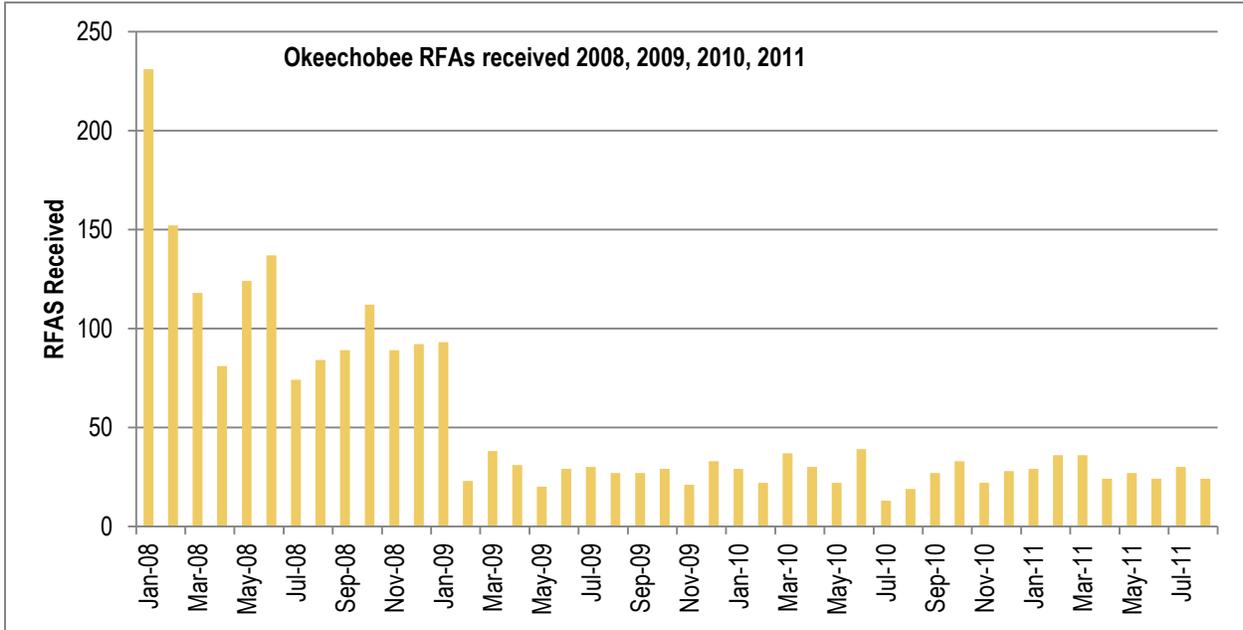
Table 23: RFAs Received, Okeechobee, Florida, 2008, 2009, 2010

Number of RFAs Received by:	2008	2009	2010	% Change 2008 - 2010
Florida	2,056,215	2,326,100	2,449,297	19%
Okeechobee	1,383	401	321	-77%

Source: Florida Department of Children and Families, Caseload Report, Sept 2011
Data Compiled by: Health Council of Southeast Florida 2011

⁴ http://www.doh.state.fl.us/Admin/General_Services/Purchasing/FA11-004.pdf

Figure: 6 and 7

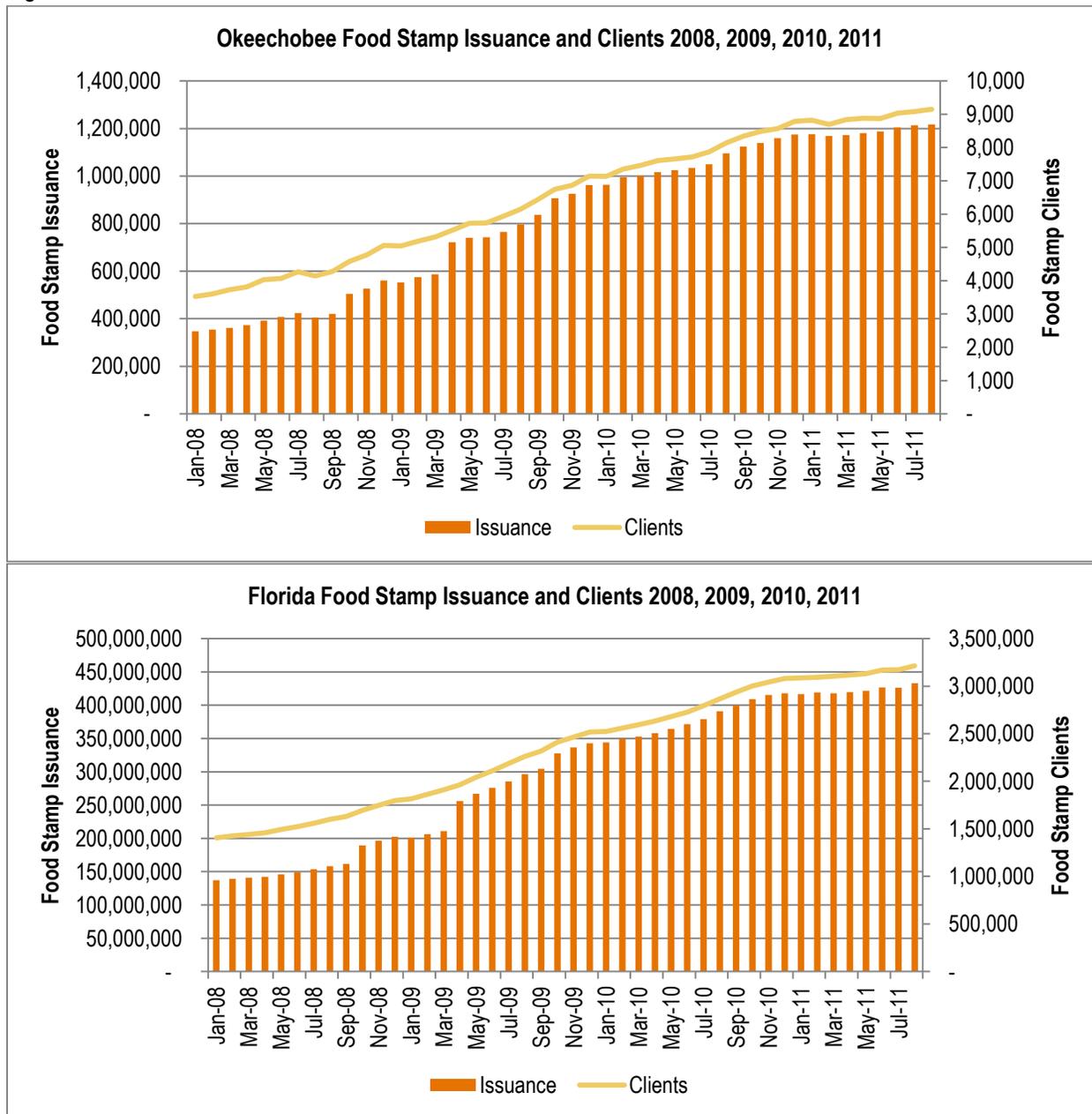


Source: Florida Department of Children and Families, Caseload Report, Sept 2011
 Compiled by: Health Council of Southeast Florida, 2011

Food Stamps

Figures 8 and 9 show monthly food stamp issuance and food stamp clients from January 2008 through August 2011 for Okeechobee County and Florida. Issuance and number of clients have both rose steadily in both areas. From January 2008 to August 2011 food stamp issuance rose 250% in Okeechobee and 216 % in Florida. During the same time period, food stamp clients increased nearly 160% in Okeechobee and 129 % in Florida.

Figures: 8 and 9

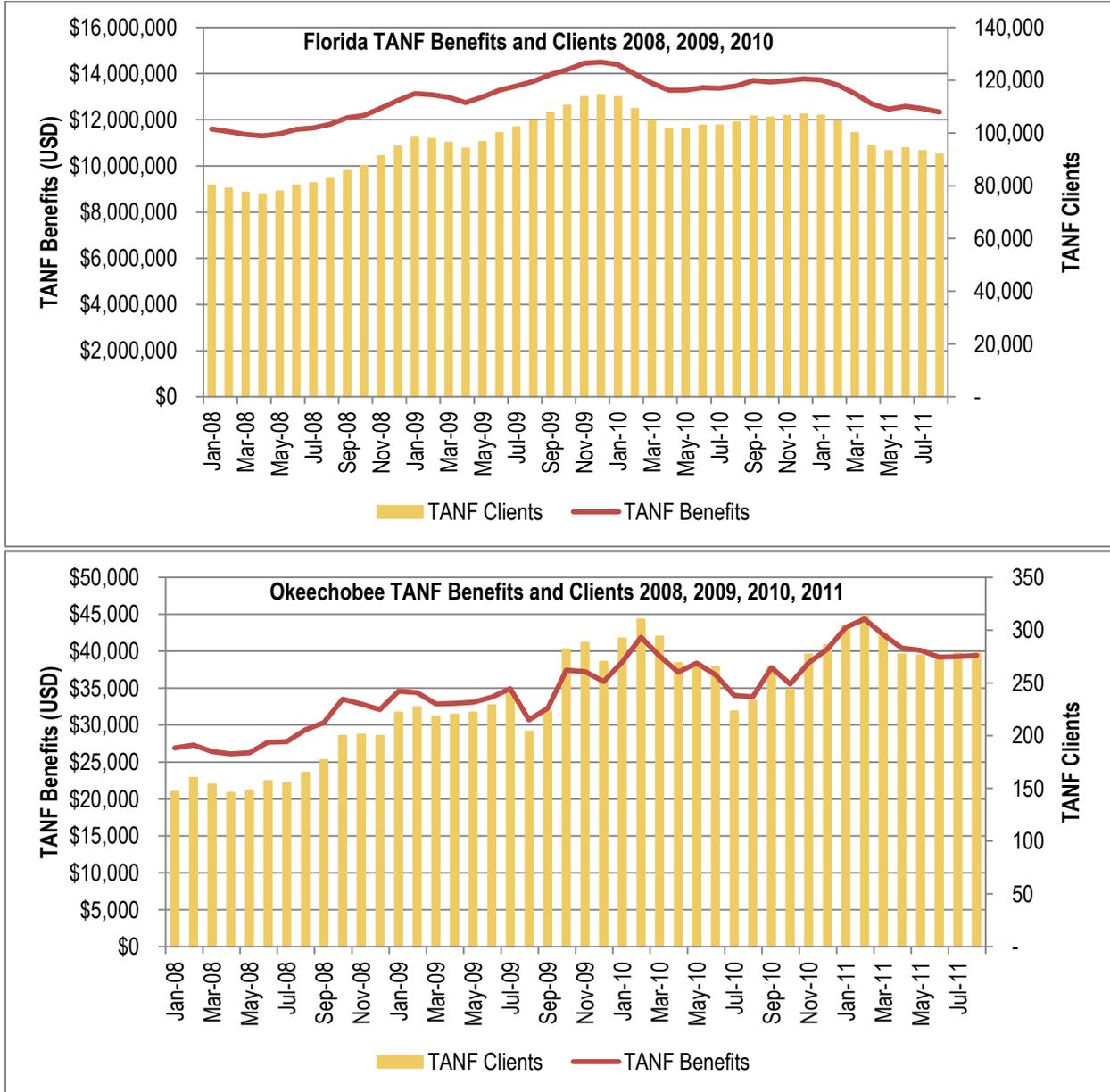


Source: Florida Department of Children and Families, Caseload Report, Sept 2011
 Compiled by: Health Council of Southeast Florida, 2011

Cash Assistance

Figures 10 and 11 show the monthly trends in number of TANF, Temporary Assistance for Needy Families, benefits and clients from January 2008 through August 2011. During that time period, TANF benefits increased by nearly 47% in Okeechobee County and the number of clients increased 89%. These are greater increases than were experienced in Florida during the same time period where TANF benefits increased just over 6% and clients increased nearly 15%.

Figures: 10 and 11

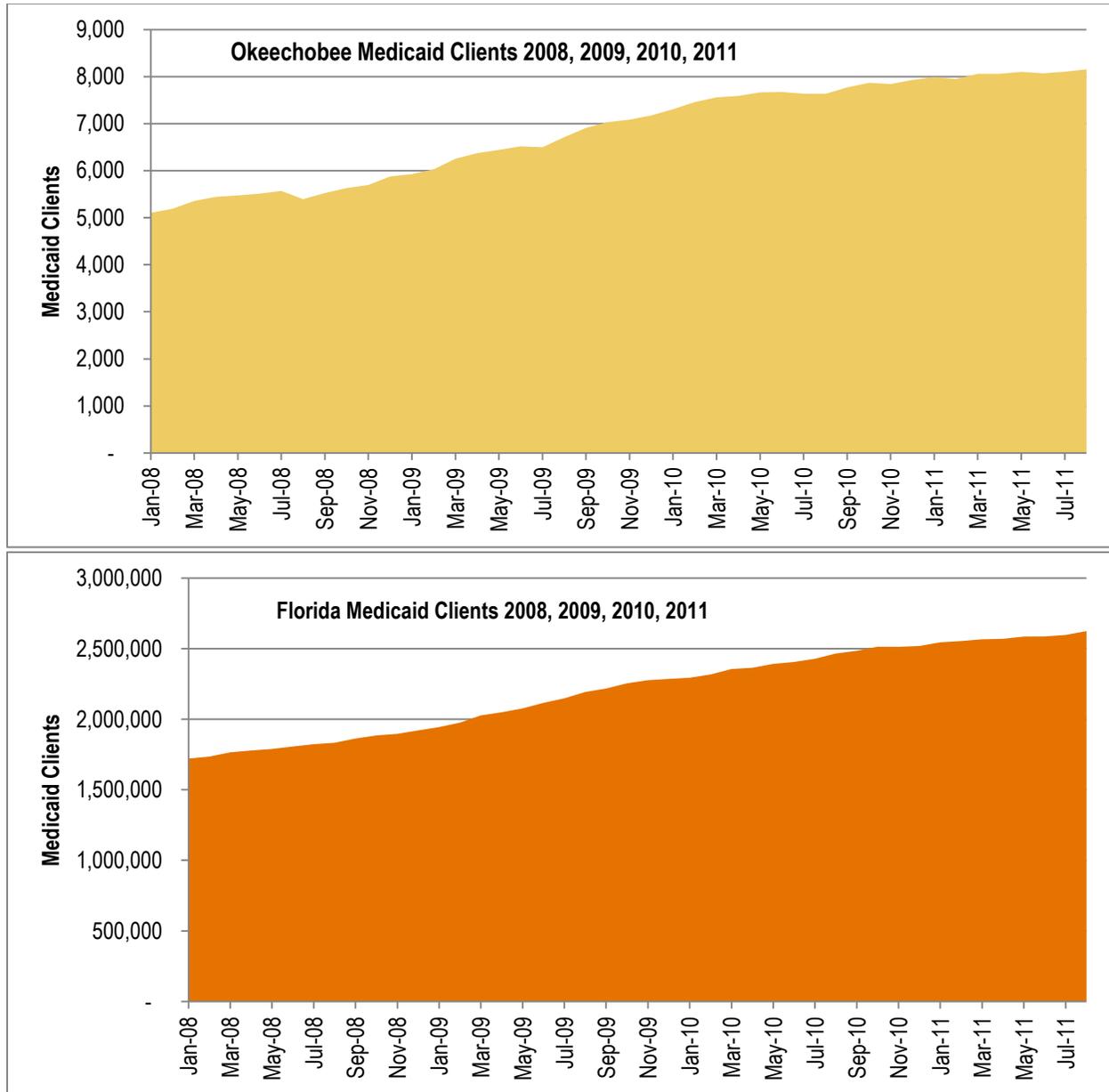


Source: Florida Department of Children and Families, Caseload Report, Sept 2011
 Compiled by: Health Council of Southeast Florida, 2011

Medical Assistance

Medicaid is a federally and state funded health program in the United States that provides health services to low income individuals and families. Figures 12 and 13 show the monthly trends in Medicaid clients in Okeechobee and in Florida from January 2008 through August 2011. During this time period the number of Medicaid clients in Okeechobee increased nearly 60% and 52.5% in Florida.

Figures: 12 and 13



Source: Florida Department of Children and Families, Caseload Report, Sept 2011
Compiled by: Health Council of Southeast Florida, 2011

School Lunch Program

Tables 24, 25 and 26 show school lunch program eligibility in Okeechobee County and in the state of Florida for students in school-readiness programs, elementary school and in middle school in 2007, 2008 and 2009. The percent of students eligible for school lunch program was consistently higher in Okeechobee County than in Florida as a whole. In 2009 in Okeechobee, 66.5% of students in school-readiness programs, 75.1% of elementary students and 62.4% of middle school students were eligible for school lunch programs.

Table 24: Children in School-Readiness Programs Eligible for Free/Reduced Lunch

	Number of FRL-eligible children			Rate Percent		
	2007	2008	2009	2007	2008	2009
	Florida	149,488	146,655	129,486	60.3%	59.3%
Okeechobee	552	473	508	79.1%	67.0%	66.5%

Data Source: FloridaCHARTS, Florida Agency for Workforce Innovation

Data Note(s): denominator is total number of students in program

Compiled by: Health Council of Southeast Florida, 2011

Table 25: Percent of Elementary Students Eligible for free/reduced lunch

	Number of Elem. Students Eligible for FRL			Rate Percent		
	2007	2008	2009	2007	2008	2009
	Florida	634,679	667,766	708,427	52.4%	55.7%
Okeechobee	2,040	2,183	2,348	62.3%	68.5%	75.1%

Data Source: FloridaCHARTS, Florida Department of Education, Education Information and Accountability Services (EIAS)

Data Note(s): Denominator is total elementary school students

Compiled by: Health Council of Southeast Florida, 2011

Table 26: Percent of Middle School Students Eligible for free/reduced lunch

	Number of Middle School Students Eligible for FRL			Rate Percent		
	2007	2008	2009	2007	2008	2009
	Florida	279,770	304,509	326,394	46.9%	50.6%
Okeechobee	811	898	996	52.5%	56.8%	62.4%

Data Source: FloridaCHARTS.com, Florida Department of Education, Education Information and Accountability Services (EIAS)

Data Note(s): Denominator is total middle school students

Compiled by: Health Council of Southeast Florida, 2011

Women, Infants and Children Program

WIC is a Supplemental Nutritional Program that serves to safeguard the health of low-income pregnant, postpartum, and breastfeeding women, infants, and children up to age 5 who are at nutritional risk by providing nutritious foods to supplement diets, information on healthy eating including breastfeeding promotion and support, and referrals to health care services.

Table 27 shows the number of individuals eligible for WIC benefits, as well as the number served. In Okeechobee County in 2009, 96.3% of the 1993 eligible individuals were served by WIC.

Table 27: WIC Eligibility and Number Served, Okeechobee, Florida, 2008, 2009, 2010

County	Number of Eligibles			Number of Total Population			Rate Percent		
	2008	2009	2010	2008	2009	2010	2008	2009	2010
Florida	594,871	592,307	580,986	18,812,155	18,819,000	18,788,795	3.2%	3.1%	3.1%
Okeechobee	2,011	1,983	1,993	40,088	40,133	39,757	5.0%	4.9%	5.0%
	Number of WIC Eligibles Served								
Florida	457,183	496,969	502,959						
Okeechobee	1,897	1,904	1,919						

Data Source: FloridaCHARTS, Florida Department of Health, WIC & Nutrition Services' WIC Potentially Eligible Population
 Compiled by: Health Council of Southeast Florida, 2011

HOUSING

Number of Housing Units

Table 28 shows the proportion of owner occupied and renter occupied housing units in Okeechobee County and in the state of Florida as a whole. 77.3% of the occupied housing units in Okeechobee were owner-occupied and the remaining 22.7% were classified as renter-occupied. The percentage of owner-occupied housing units is greater in Okeechobee County than in Florida as a whole.

Table 28: Housing, Okeechobee and Florida, 2005-2009, 5-Year Estimates

	Florida		Okeechobee	
	Estimate	Percent	Estimate	Percent
Occupied housing units	7,076,539	7,076,539	12,766	12,766
Owner-occupied	4,933,594	69.7%	9,874	77.30%
Renter-occupied	2,142,945	30.3%	2,892	22.70%

Source: Source: US Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 2009
 Compiled by: Health Council of Southeast Florida, 2011

Median Housing Price

Table 29 shows the median value of owner-occupied housing units and the percentage of units in value bands in Okeechobee and in the state of Florida. Over 55% of the owner-occupied housing units in Okeechobee County have a value of less than \$150,000 and the largest percentage of housing units fall into the \$50,000 - \$99,999 with 20.9% and the \$100,000 - \$149,999 with 21.1% categories. In the state of Florida, the largest two value bands are the \$200,000 - \$299,999 with 22.9% and the \$300,000 - \$499,999 with 19.4%.

Table 29: Value of Owner-occupied units, Okeechobee and Florida, 2005-2009, 5-Year Estimates

	Florida		Okeechobee	
	Estimate	Percent	Estimate	Percent
Owner-occupied units	4,933,594	4,933,594	9,874	9,874
Less than \$50,000	320,838	6.5%	1,356	13.70%
\$50,000 to \$99,999	528,009	10.7%	2,059	20.90%
\$100,000 to \$149,999	660,858	13.4%	2,082	21.10%
\$150,000 to \$199,999	801,295	16.2%	1,363	13.80%
\$200,000 to \$299,999	1,128,980	22.9%	1,683	17.00%
\$300,000 to \$499,999	958,174	19.4%	1,058	10.70%
\$500,000 to \$999,999	411,371	8.3%	138	1.40%
\$1,000,000 or more	124,069	2.5%	135	1.40%
Median (dollars)	211,300	(X)	134,000	(X)

Source: US Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 2009
 Compiled by: Health Council of Southeast Florida, 2011

Average Rent

Table 30 shows gross rents for Okeechobee County and the state of Florida as a whole by price bands. Okeechobee County had 2,620 occupied rental units paying rent. 22.8% of these units had a monthly rent of \$500 - \$749, 37.4% rented for \$750 - \$999 and 17.9% for \$1,000 - \$1,499. The median rent in Okeechobee was estimated to be \$820 and the median in the state of Florida was \$934 per month.

Table 30: Gross Rent, Okeechobee, Florida, 2005-2009, 5-Year Estimates

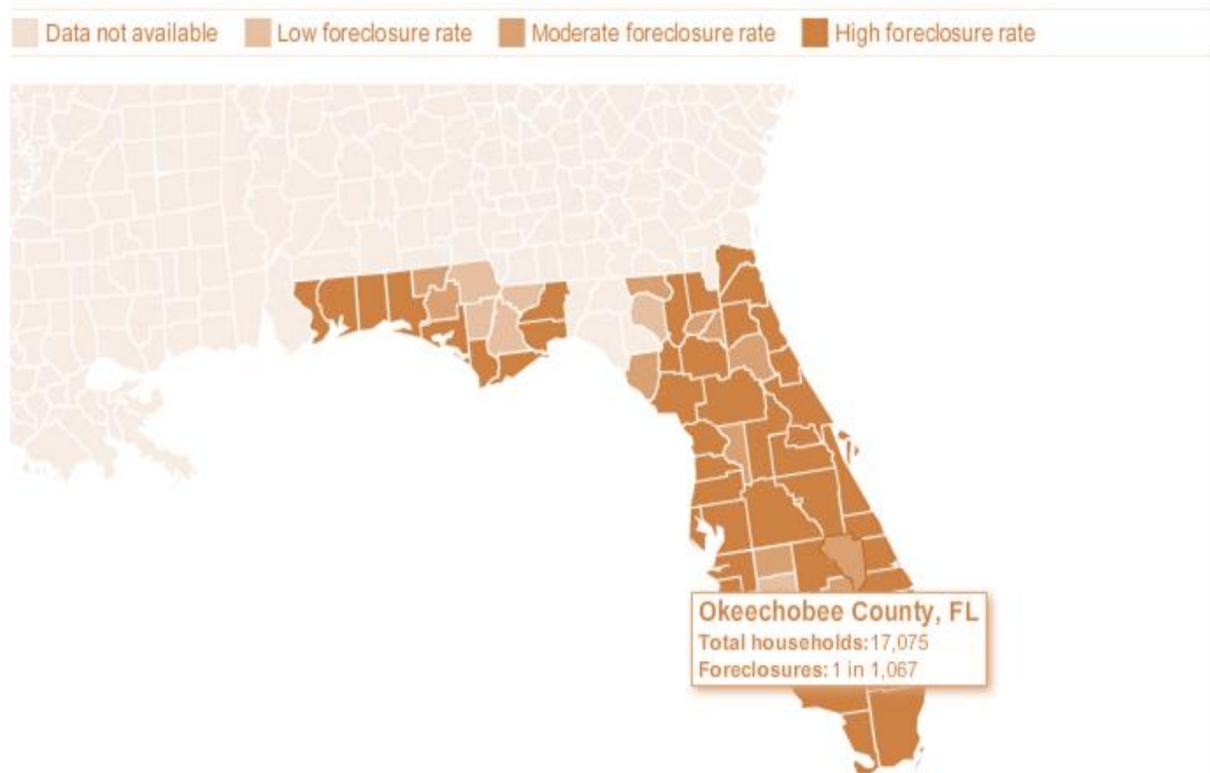
	Florida		Okeechobee	
	Estimate	Percent	Estimate	Percent
Occupied units paying rent	2,034,905	2,034,905	2,620	2,620
Less than \$200	33,984	1.7%	35	1.30%
\$200 to \$299	41,964	2.1%	165	6.30%
\$300 to \$499	108,977	5.4%	243	9.30%
\$500 to \$749	387,932	19.1%	598	22.80%
\$750 to \$999	600,478	29.5%	981	37.40%
\$1,000 to \$1,499	629,780	30.9%	470	17.90%
\$1,500 or more	231,790	11.4%	128	4.90%
Median (dollars)	\$934	(X)	\$820	(X)
No rent paid	108,040	(X)	272	(X)

Source: US Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 2009
 Compiled by: Health Council of Southeast Florida, 2011

Foreclosures

Figure 14 shows foreclosures classifications for counties in Florida as of July 2011. Each county is classified as having a 'low', 'moderate' or 'high' foreclosure rate. Okeechobee County with 1 in 1,067 properties having foreclosure actions is classified as moderate. A classification of moderate is given to counties that have between 1 in 700 and 1 in 4,000 properties with foreclosure actions.

Figure 14



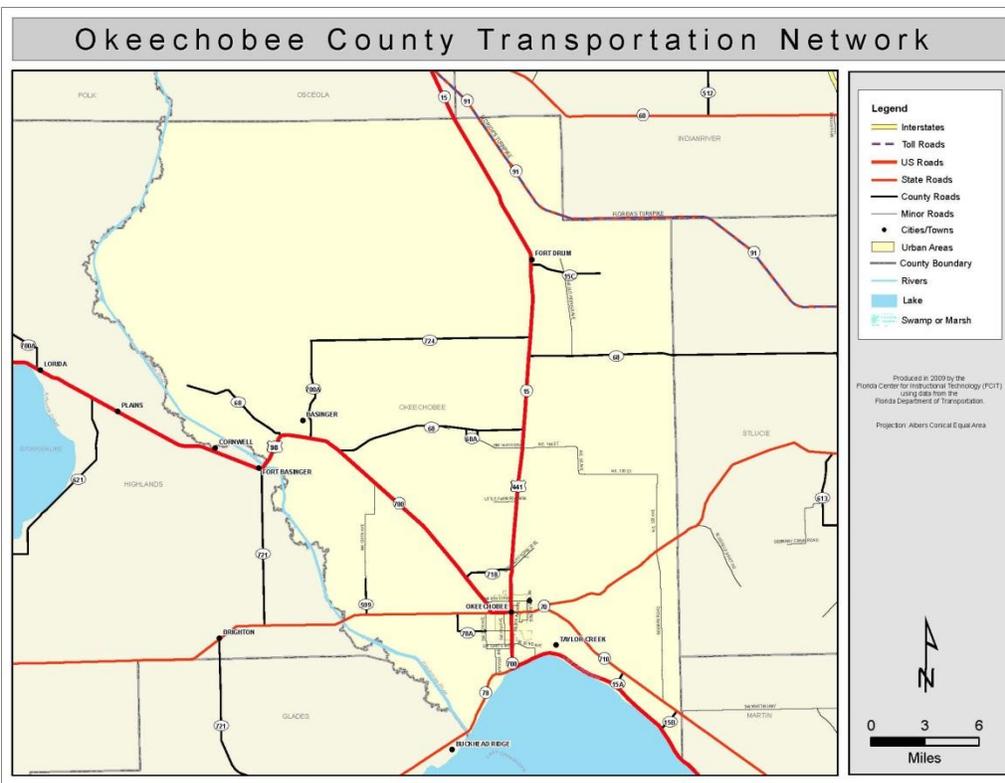
Source: RealtyTrac Inc., U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, Nielsen Claritas
Credit: Robert Benincasa and Nelson Hsu/NPR

Source: National Public Radio, "Interactive Map: The Economy Where You Live"

PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION

Transportation is a key service enabling residents the ability to access many services located within a region or county. Access to health care services is important to all communities, but it is especially important in rural communities. There is no public transportation system for residents of Okeechobee County, making access to health care services more difficult, particularly for vulnerable and at-risk populations, such as the poor, uninsured, underinsured, and other special needs populations. There is however, a limited resource for transportation called Community Transportation. This service may be accessed in a limited capacity. Individuals can contact and schedule a ride with the appropriate county contact. The Okeechobee County contact may be found in the directory of community resources provided in Appendix D.

Figure 15



Source: Florida Center for Instructional Technology, Florida Department of Transportation

Number of Vehicles per Housing Unit

Table 31: Vehicles Available, Okeechobee, Florida, 2010

	Florida		Okeechobee	
	Estimate	Percent	Estimate	Percent
Occupied housing units	7,076,539	7,076,539	12,766	12,766
No vehicles available	456,639	6.5%	752	5.90%
1 vehicle available	2,835,188	40.1%	4,709	36.90%
2 vehicles available	2,748,569	38.8%	5,149	40.30%
3 or more vehicles available	1,036,143	14.6%	2,156	16.90%

Source: US Census Bureau, 2010

Compiled by: Health Council of Southeast Florida, 2011

UNCOMPENSATED CARE

Table 32 shows revenues, expenses and uncompensated care at Raulerson Hospital in 2009. Total patient revenues were \$269,316,241 and total operating expenses were \$52,449,658. Total gross uncompensated care was \$16,590,045 which is just over 6% of total patient revenues.

Table 32: Revenues, Expenses and Uncompensated Care, Raulerson Hospital, 2009

Raulerson Hospital	
Total Patient Revenues	\$269,316,241
Total Operating Expenses	\$52,449,658
Gross Bad Debt (\$)	\$13,066,454
Gross Charity Care (\$)	\$3,523,591
Total Gross Uncompensated Care (\$)	\$16,590,045

Source: Florida Agency for Health Care Administration, Florida Hospital Uniform Reporting System, 2009

Compiled by: Health Council of Southeast Florida, 2011

CRIME

Crime in a community can influence health status both as a result of direct injury from the crimes themselves and as a result of the emotional stresses present in areas of high crime. Table 33 shows crime counts in Okeechobee County organized by the type of crime. From 2009 to 2010 the total arrests remained stable; however the number of violent crime decreased 10.2% and the index rate decreased 2.6%.

Table 33: Crime in Okeechobee County, 2009, 2010

Crime Type	2009	2010	% Change
Population	39,703	39,816	0.3%
Total Arrests	2,128	2,135	0.3%
Total Index Offenses	1,620	1,582	-2.3%
Violent Rate	632.2	567.6	-10.2%
Non-Violent Rate	3,448.1	3,405.70	-1.2%
Index Rate	4,080.3	3,973.30	-2.6%

Source: www.fdle.state.fl.us
Compiled by: Health Council of Southeast Florida, 2011

Table 34 shows index offenses in Okeechobee County in 2008, 2009 and 2010. The total number of index offenses decreased from 1753 in 2008 to 1582 in 2010. The number of aggravated assaults decreased by more than 30% in the three year period.

Table 34: Index Offenses, Okeechobee 2008, 2009, 2010

Index Offenses	2008	2009	2010
Murder	2	4	2
Forcible Sex Offenses	21	15	17
Robbery	36	19	43
Aggravated Assault	236	213	164
Burglary	589	512	564
Larceny	816	810	756
Motor Vehicle Theft	53	47	36
Total Index Offenses	1753	1620	1582

Source: Florida Department of Law Enforcement
Compiled by: Health Council of Southeast Florida, 2011

Table 35 provides information on property values stolen and recovered in Okeechobee County in 2008, 2009 and 2010. In 2010, the category with the highest dollar value of stolen goods was motor vehicles with \$420,200, followed by jewelry and precious metals with a value of \$367,767 reported stolen.

Table 35: Stolen and Recovered Property Information Values, Okeechobee, 2008, 2009, 2010

Type Property	Stolen Value 2008	Recovered Value 2008	Stolen Value 2009	Recovered Value 2009	Stolen Value 2010	Recovered Value 2010
Currency, Note, Etc.	\$79,520	\$10,741	\$90,171	\$3,872	\$67,486	\$1,003
Jewelry, Precious Metal	\$105,218	\$7,041	\$94,541	\$13,163	\$367,767	\$22,838
Clothing & Furs	\$4,353	\$1,103	\$6,369	\$2,903	\$6,993	\$624
Motor Vehicles	\$601,562	\$395,412	\$434,850	\$271,350	\$420,200	\$227,400
Office Equipment	\$12,875	\$1,588	\$30,798	\$1,583	\$18,787	\$4,011
TVS, Radios, Stereos	\$33,469	\$2,517	\$31,523	\$3,453	\$26,109	\$1,895
Firearms	\$11,068	\$1,224	\$15,080	\$1,050	\$16,414	\$3,135
Household Goods	\$434	\$14	\$1,615	\$315	\$1,819	\$0
Consumable Goods	\$1,543	\$716	\$1,675	\$301	\$1,194	\$231
Livestock	\$9,428	\$1,000	\$1,200	\$0	\$950	\$300
Miscellaneous	\$650,773	\$251,375	\$918,411	\$54,317	\$355,183	\$33,006
Total Values	\$1,510,243	\$672,731	\$1,626,233	\$352,307	\$1,282,902	\$294,443

Source: Florida Department of Law Enforcement
 Compiled by: Health Council of Southeast Florida, 2011

HEALTH STATUS PROFILE

This section of the Health Needs Assessment presents secondary data analyses into the Okeechobee community health status by analyzing the following major health indicators: Maternal and Child Health, Behavioral Health, Hospital Utilization, Morbidity and Mortality data indicators. Emergent healthcare priorities may be gathered from data presented herein and be used to inform policy and program development.

MATERNAL & CHILD HEALTH

PRENATAL CARE ACCESS

Table 36 shows prenatal care status of births in Okeechobee and the state of Florida as a whole in 2007, 2008 and 2009. Using the Kotelchuck Index to determine adequate care, the percentage of births in Okeechobee where the mother had adequate prenatal care was 72.6% in 2009, up from 67% in 2007. These percentages are similar to those of Florida as a whole. Over the three years, there was a lower percentage of mothers receiving 1st trimester prenatal care in Okeechobee when compared to Florida. Table 36a shows prenatal care status by race and Table 36b shows status by ethnicity. The percentage of Hispanic mothers who received 1st trimester prenatal care was consistently lower in Okeechobee than the percentage of non-Hispanic mothers. This ethnic disparity is greater, during the time period shown, in Okeechobee than in Florida. There is a slight difference in 1st trimester and 3rd trimester or no prenatal care between White mothers and mothers who are Black or other races, however, the disparities are not as apparent in Okeechobee as they are in Florida during the time period shown.

Table 36: Prenatal Care 2007, 2008, 2009, Okeechobee, Florida

	Florida						Okeechobee					
	2007	2008	2009	2007	2008	2009	2007	2008	2009	2007	2008	2009
	Count			Percentage*			Count			Percentage*		
Births to Mothers with No Prenatal Care	4,621	4,230	3,315	2.1%	2.0%	1.7%	7	5	6	1.1%	1.0%	1.1%
Births to Mothers with 1st trimester Prenatal Care	165,545	159,426	154,752	75.9%	76.9%	78.3%	421	355	366	69.1%	70.2%	69.6%
Births to Mothers with 2nd trimester Prenatal Care	39,247	35,958	33,051	18.0%	17.3%	16.7%	148	124	137	24.3%	24.5%	26.0%
Births to Mothers with 3rd trimester Prenatal Care	8,566	7,710	6,575	3.9%	3.7%	3.3%	33	22	17	5.4%	4.3%	3.2%
Births to Mothers with Adequate** Prenatal Care	150,512	142,059	138,142	69.0%	68.5%	69.9%	408	335	382	67.0%	66.2%	72.6%

*Percentage is calculated using denominator of number of births with known PNC status

**Adequate care determined by Kotelchuck index

Source: FloridaCHARTS, Data Source: Florida Department of Health, Bureau of Vital Statistics, 2009

Compiled by: Health Council of Southeast Florida, 2011

Table 36a: Prenatal Care by Race, Okeechobee and Florida, 2007, 2008, 2009

Year	Okeechobee				Florida			
	White		Black & Other		White		Black & Other	
	Count	Rate (%)	Count	Rate (%)	Count	Rate (%)	Count	Rate (%)
Births to Mothers With 1st Trimester Prenatal Care, Single Year Rates								
2007	381	70%	40	61.5%	125,503	78.4%	39,896	69.3%
2008	310	70.3%	45	69.2%	119,979	79.3%	39,295	70.3%
2009	328	69.5%	38	70.4%	115,342	80.6%	39,139	72%
Births to Mothers With 2nd Trimester Prenatal Care, Single Year Rates								
2007	129	23.7%	19	29.2%	26,287	16.4%	12,917	22.4%
2008	108	24.5%	16	24.6%	23,787	15.7%	12,131	21.7%
2009	124	26.3%	13	24.1%	21,577	15.1%	11,431	21%
Births to Mothers With 3rd Trimester or No Prenatal Care, Single Year Rates								
2007	34	6.3%	6	9.2%	8,386	5.2%	4,767	8.3%
2008	23	5.2%	4	6.2%	7,454	4.9%	4,461	8%
2009	20	4.2%	3	5.6%	6,108	4.3%	3,757	6.9%

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

Table 36b: Prenatal Care by Ethnicity, Okeechobee and Florida, 2007, 2008, 2009

Year	Okeechobee				Florida			
	Hispanic		Non-Hispanic		Hispanic		Non-Hispanic	
	Count	Rate (%)	Count	Rate (%)	Count	Rate (%)	Count	Rate (%)
Births to Mothers With 1st Trimester Prenatal Care, Single Year Rates								
2007	121	59%	300	74.3%	46,412	73.2%	118,456	77.1%
2008	114	60%	241	76.3%	42,870	74.8%	116,025	77.7%
2009	134	65.4%	232	72.5%	41,084	76.9%	112,881	78.8%
Births to Mothers With 2nd Trimester Prenatal Care, Single Year Rates								
2007	65	31.7%	83	20.5%	12,764	20.1%	26,360	17.2%
2008	62	32.6%	62	19.6%	10,858	18.9%	25,001	16.7%
2009	63	30.7%	74	23.1%	9,490	17.8%	23,416	16.3%
Births to Mothers With 3rd Trimester or No Prenatal Care, Single Year Rates								
2007	19	9.3%	21	5.2%	4,253	6.7%	8,862	5.8%
2008	14	7.4%	13	4.1%	3,613	6.3%	8,266	5.5%
2009	8	3.9%	14	4.4%	2,878	5.4%	6,964	4.9%

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

BIRTH RATES

Total Births

Table 37 shows the total count for resident live births Okeechobee County and Florida for 2007, 2008 and 2009. The rate per 1,000 individuals was higher in Okeechobee than in Florida as a whole for all three years. In 2008, there were 14.1 live births per 1,000 in Okeechobee and in Florida the rate was 11.8.

Table37 : Total Resident Live Births, 2007 ,2008 & 2009

	Number of Total Births			Rate Per 1,000		
	2007	2008	2009	2007	2008	2009
Florida	239,120	231,417	221,391	12.8	12.3	11.8
Okeechobee	642	532	564	16.4	13.3	14.1

Data Source: FloridaCHARTS, Florida Department of Health, Bureau of Vital Statistics

Data Note(s): Beginning in 2004, The state total for this indicator may be greater than the sum of county totals due to an unknown county of residence on some records.

Rates calculated using July 1 population estimates from the Office of the Governor.

Birth Rates by Age of Mother

Table 38 shows birth counts to mothers organized by the mother's age. In 2009, in Okeechobee County the highest numbers of births were to mothers 20-29 years of age with 332 resident live births. There were 129 births to mothers 30 years and older and 102 to mothers 15-19 years.

Table 38 : Number of Births to Mothers by Age Category, Okeechobee, Florida, 2007, 2008, 2009

	Florida			Okeechobee		
	2007	2008	2009	2007	2008	2009
Birth to Mothers 10-14	376	356	262	2	1	1
Birth to Mothers 14-18	15,704	14,540	12,877	76	60	61
Birth to Mothers 15-19	25,688	24,089	22,016	119	99	102
Birth to Mothers 20-29	127,503	123,214	118,162	381	319	332
Birth to Mothers 30+	85,544	83,749	80,945	140	113	129

Data Source: FloridaCHARTS, Florida Department of Health, Bureau of Vital Statistics

Compiled by: Health Council of Southeast Florida, 2011

Table 39 provides birth rate by the mother's age. In Okeechobee, the birth rate to mothers 14-18 was 44.7 per 1,000 females in that age range, compared to Florida where the rate was 22.1. Births to mothers 15-19 in Okeechobee were also higher at 75 per 1,000 than Florida which was 37.4 per 1,000. The birth rate in all of the age groups shown decreased in both Okeechobee

and Florida from 2007 to 2009. Table 39a shows births counts and rates to mothers 14-18 by race and Table 39b shows the data for the same age group by ethnicity. A considerable difference is seen in the births to Hispanic mothers aged 14-18, 69.2 per 1,000 in Okeechobee in 2009 when compared to the rate of births to non-Hispanic mothers 14-18 in Okeechobee, 33.9 births per 1,000 females.

Table 39 : Rate of Birth Rate Per 1,000 to Mothers by Age Category, Okeechobee, Florida, 2007, 2008, 2009

	Florida			Okeechobee		
	2007	2008	2009	2007	2008	2009
Birth to Mothers 10-14*	0.7	0.6	0.5	1.5	0.7	0.8
Birth to Mothers 14-18	26.5	24.7	22.1	57	44.1	44.7
Birth to Mothers 15-19	43.2	40.7	37.4	90.6	73.4	75.0
Birth to Mothers 20-29*	111.4	106.8	101.9	177.6	144.7	149.2
Birth to Mothers 30+*	14.0	13.6	13.1	12.8	10.0	11.4

Data Source: FloridaCHARTS, Florida Department of Health, Bureau of Vital Statistics

Data Note(s): * Rates calculated using July 1 population estimates from the Office of the Governor; Rate of birth out of total number of females in that age range
Compiled by: Health Council of Southeast Florida, 2011

Table 39a: Births to Mothers Ages 14-18, by Race, Okeechobee and Florida, 2007, 2008, 2009

Year	Okeechobee				Florida			
	White		Black & Other		White		Black & Other	
	Count	Rate per 1,000	Count	Rate	Count	Rate per 1,000	Count	Rate
2007	61	52.1	15	84.7	9,801	23	5,876	36.3
2008	50	42.5	10	54.1	8,966	21.1	5,546	34
2009	54	45.6	7	39.1	7,776	18.4	5,070	31

Source: FloridaCHARTS, Florida Department of Health, Bureau of Vital Statistics

Notes: This includes pregnancies that end with a live birth and does not include pregnancies that end with miscarriages, elective and spontaneous abortions or fetal deaths.

Compiled by: Health Council of Southeast Florida

Births to Mothers Ages 14-18, by Ethnicity, Okeechobee and Florida, 2007, 2008, 2009

Year	Okeechobee				Florida			
	Hispanic		Non-Hispanic		Hispanic		Non-Hispanic	
	Count	Rate per 1,000	Count	Rate per 1,000	Count	Rate	Count	Rate
2007	32	84.9	44	45.4	4,920	35.5	10,667	23.7
2008	31	78.5	29	30	4,349	30.4	10,103	22.7
2009	29	69.2	32	33.9	3,630	24.8	9,161	20.8

Source: FloridaCHARTS, Florida Department of Health, Bureau of Vital Statistics

Notes: This includes pregnancies that end with a live birth and does not include pregnancies that end with miscarriages, elective and spontaneous abortions or fetal deaths.

Compiled by: Health Council of Southeast Florida

Teenage Birth Rates and Repeat Teenage Birth Rates

Tables 40 and 41 show the counts and the rates of repeat births to teenage mothers. Okeechobee County repeat birth rate to mothers 15-17 years old dropped from 13.9% in 2007 to 2.8% in 2009. During the same time period the rate in the state of Florida stayed between 9.4 – 9.8 per 100. The rate of repeat births to mothers 15-19 years old however, was slightly higher in Okeechobee than in Florida as a whole with a rate of 19.6 in 2009. Due to the small number of events in these age ranges in Okeechobee, single event variations can have considerable effects on the rates. Repeat births to mothers 18-19 years old were 28.8% in 2009 in Okeechobee County, 6.4% greater than in Florida as a whole.

Table 40 : Number of Repeat Births to Mothers, by Age Category, Okeechobee, Florida, 2007, 2008, 2009

	Florida			Okeechobee		
	2007	2008	2009	2007	2008	2009
Births to Mothers 10-12	0	0	0	0	0	0
Births to Mothers 15-17	761	713	598	5	3	1
Births to Mothers 15-19	4,774	4,461	4,163	24	22	20
Births to Mothers 18-19	4,013	3,748	3,522	19	19	19

Data Source: FloridaCHARTS, Florida Department of Health, Bureau of Vital Statistics
Compiled by: Health Council of Southeast Florida, 2011

Table 41 : Percent of Repeat Births to Mothers within Age Category, Okeechobee, Florida, 2007, 2008, 2009

	Florida			Okeechobee		
	2007	2008	2009	2007	2008	2009
Births to Mothers 10-12	0	0	0	0	0	0
Births to Mothers 15-17	9.4	9.8	9.5	13.9	9.7	2.8
Births to Mothers 15-19	18.6	18.5	18.9	20.2	22.2	19.6
Births to Mothers 18-19	22.8	22.3	22.4	22.9	27.9	28.8

Data Source: FloridaCHARTS, Florida Department of Health, Bureau of Vital Statistics
Data Note: Rate calculated out of number of births to females in age range
Data Compiled by: Health Council of Southeast Florida, 2011

BIRTH WEIGHT

Very Low Birth Weight

Proper prenatal care and healthy behaviors during pregnancy can reduce the likelihood of low birth weight babies. Table 42 shows the count and percent of live births classified as “very low birth weight”, meaning less than 1500 grams. In 2009, the percent was 1.8% in Okeechobee, similar to the 1.6% in the state of Florida as a whole.

Table 42 : Live Births Under 1500 Grams, “Very Low Birth Weight” to All Mothers, Okeechobee, Florida, 2007, 2008, 2009

	Number of VLBW Births			Number of Total Births			Rate Percent		
	2007	2008	2009	2007	2008	2009	2007	2008	2009
Florida	3,886	3,851	3,544	239,120	231,417	221,391	1.60%	1.70%	1.60%
Okeechobee	8	7	10	642	532	564	1.20%	1.30%	1.80%

Data Source: FloridaCHARTS, Florida Department of Health, Bureau of Vital Statistics
Compiled by: Health Council of Southeast Florida, 2011

Low Birth Weight

Table 43 shows the count and percent of live births classified as “low birth weight”, meaning less than 2500 grams. In 2009, the percent was 8.0% in Okeechobee, slightly less than the 8.7% in Florida as a whole.

Table 43 : Live Births Under 2500 Grams, “Low Birth Weight” to All Mothers, Okeechobee, Florida, 2007, 2008, 2009

	Number of LBW Births			Number of Total Births			Rate Percent		
	2007	2008	2009	2007	2008	2009	2007	2008	2009
Florida	20,767	20,369	19,297	239,120	231,417	221,391	8.7%	8.8%	8.7%
Okeechobee	56	51	45	642	532	564	8.7%	9.6%	8.0%

Data Source: FloridaCHARTS, Florida Department of Health, Bureau of Vital Statistics
Compiled by: Health Council of Southeast Florida, 2011

INFANT MORTALITY

Infant Mortality

Infant mortality is the death of an infant 0-364 days old. Infant mortality in Okeechobee County ranged between 3.5 and 7.5 per 1,000 live births in 2007-2009. Due to the relatively small number of infant deaths and infant births, small changes in the counts can greatly affect the rate. The average rate per 1,000 live births over the three years was 5.7, slightly lower than Florida's which ranged from 6.9-7.2 per 1,000 live births.

Table 44: Total Infant Mortality (0-364 days), Okeechobee, Florida, 2007, 2008, 2009

	Number of Infant Deaths			Number of Total Live Births			Rate Per 1,000		
	2007	2008	2009	2007	2008	2009	2007	2008	2009
Florida	1689	1667	1525	239,120	231,417	221,391	7.1	7.2	6.9
Okeechobee	4	4	2	642	532	564	6.2	7.5	3.5

Data Source: FloridaCHARTS Florida Department of Health, Bureau of Vital Statistics, 2009
Compiled by: Health Council of Southeast Florida, 2011

Neonatal Mortality

Neonatal mortality is that death of an infant 0-27 days old. Neonatal mortality in Okeechobee County ranged between 1.8-4.7 per 1,000 live births between 2007 and 2009. Due to the relatively small number of infant deaths and infant births, small changes in the counts can greatly affect the rate. The average rate per 1,000 live births over the three years was 3.4, less than Florida's rate which ranged from 4.4 - 4.6 per 1,000 live births.

Table 45: Neonatal Mortality (0 - 27 days) Okeechobee, Florida, 2007, 2008, 2009

County	Number of Neonatal Deaths			Number of Total Live Births			Rate Per 1,000		
	2007	2008	2009	2007	2008	2009	2007	2008	2009
Florida	1,062	1,061	995	239,120	231,417	221,391	4.4	4.6	4.5
Okeechobee	3	2	1	642	532	564	4.7	3.8	1.8

Data Source: FloridaCHARTS Florida Department of Health, Bureau of Vital Statistics, 2009
Compiled by: Health Council of Southeast Florida, 2011

IMMUNIZATION

Kindergarten Immunization

A population in which a higher percentage of individuals are immunized can help prevent the spread of many preventable diseases. Table 46 shows the percent of kindergarten students who have received vaccinations. The state of Florida as a whole remained fairly consistent over the three year period with between 90-91% of the kindergarten students being immunized. The rate of immunization fluctuated over the three year period in Okeechobee with a high of 96% of students being immunized in 2008 to 83% in 2009 and back to 90% in 2010.

Table 46: Immunization Levels in Kindergarten, Okeechobee, Florida, 2008, 2009, 2010

County	Number of Students Immunized			Number of Kindergarten Students			Rate Percent		
	2008	2009	2010	2008	2009	2010	2008	2009	2010
Florida	195,514	199,638	200,264	217,814	218,630	219,254	90%	91%	91%
Okeechobee	513	487	559	532	585	622	96%	83%	90%

Data Source: FloridaCHARTS, Florida Department of Health, Bureau of Immunization
Compiled by: Health Council of Southeast Florida, 2011

Vaccine Preventable Diseases

Table 47 shows the rate per 100,000 of vaccine preventable diseases in Okeechobee County and in Florida. The rate appears higher in Okeechobee, but given the rarity of the events in the county, small changes in the number of cases can make considerable changes in the rate.

Table 47: Selected Vaccine Preventable Disease Rates, Okeechobee, Florida,

County	Average Number of Cases			Rate Per 100,000		
	2006-08	2007-09	2008-10	2006-08	2007-09	2008-10
Florida	620	714	730	3.3	3.8	3.9
Okeechobee	3	3	2	6.8	6.7	5

Data Source: FloridaCHARTS, Florida Department of Health, Bureau of Epidemiology
Compiled by: Health Council of Southeast Florida, 2011

BEHAVIORAL HEALTH

This section focuses on behaviors that either enhance or detract from the physical, emotional and mental health of any given population. The behavioral health section takes into consideration such areas as domestic violence, sexual behaviors, inpatient utilization of mental health services, alcohol consumption/substance abuse and violence and injury measures.

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

Domestic violence can be defined to include any violence in the home, including between adult children and other adult family members. Domestic violence against others is a major public health problem in the U.S. accounting for the loss of 18,000 lives each year.⁵

Table 48 highlights domestic violence offenses by offense type and victims' relationship to offender. There was a slight decrease in the number of aggravated assaults committed in 2010 compared to the previous year. Conversely, there was an increase in the number of simple assaults committed in the years shown with a high of 137 in 2010. Overall, there is an increasing trend in the total number offenses in this three year period.

Table 48: Domestic Violence by Year, Offense Type, and Victim's Relationship to Offender, Okeechobee, 2008, 2009, 2010

Offenses	Year	RELATIONSHIP VICTIM TO OFFENDER							Total of Offense
		Spouse	Parent	Child	Sibling	Other Family	Cohabitant	Other	
Murder	2008	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	2009	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	2010	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Manslaughter	2008	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	2009	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	2010	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Forcible Sex Offenses	2008	0	3	0	0	0	0	0	3
	2009	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	2010	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	2
Aggravated Assault	2008	4	5	4	5	2	5	14	39
	2009	12	2	5	4	3	0	24	50
	2010	9	1	1	2	3	10	17	43

⁵ www.countyrankings.org/healthfactors/community-safety

Aggravated Stalking	2008	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	2009	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
	2010	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Simple Assault	2008	68	10	27	13	6	21	102	247
	2009	62	17	32	20	17	20	111	279
	2010	81	14	25	23	7	31	137	318
Threat/Intimidation	2008	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	2009	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	2010	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Simple Stalking	2008	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	2009	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	2010	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Grand Total of Offenses by Year	2008	72	18	31	18	8	26	116	289
	2009	75	19	37	24	20	20	135	330
	2010	90	15	26	25	10	41	156	363

Source: Florida Department of Law Enforcement, 2010

Compiled by: Health Council of Southeast Florida, 2011

SEXUAL BEHAVIORS

Unsafe sex” is sexual behavior that increases the risk of such adverse outcomes as unintended pregnancy and transmission of sexually transmitted infections, including HIV. Data on unsafe sex, such as failure to use contraception or condoms properly, are not easily available at the county level, and therefore two proxy measures are employed to represent this focus area: adults tested for HIV and measures to prevent pregnancy.

Sexually Transmitted Infections/Diseases

Please refer to the section on Morbidity for data and information on sexually transmitted infections and diseases (STIs and STDs).

Adults Tested for HIV

As seen from Table 49, 60% percent of adults in the county between 18 and 44 years of age have been tested for HIV; as compared with 57% percent of the population in the state of Florida. Approximately, 37.8% of adults 45-64 years old have been tested for HIV in Okeechobee County as compared to 40.6 % of for the state of Florida as a whole. Based on a scale of 1 through 4; with quartile 1 representing the highest percentages of individuals being tested for HIV among Florida counties; Okeechobee is ranked in Quartile 3.

Table 49: Percentage of Adults less than 65 years of age who have ever been tested for HIV, 2010

	18-44	Quartile	45-64	Quartile
Florida	57% (54.5-59.6)		40.6% (38.5-42.7)	
Okeechobee	60% (47.3-72.6)		37.8% (25.0-50.6)	3

Data Source: FloridaCHARTS, BRFSS, Florida Department of Health, Bureau of Epidemiology

Confidence intervals - Because the BRFSS is a random survey and all estimates of prevalence are subject to random sample errors, we include 95% confidence intervals (CI) with each prevalence (%) in the tables. The confidence interval ranges appear below the prevalence estimates in parentheses.

Compiled by: Health Council of Southeast Florida, 2011

Prevention of Pregnancy

As noted in Table 50, over 60% of females (less than 45 years old) or males (less than 60 years old) in Okeechobee County report taking measures to prevent pregnancy as compared with 56.2% of Florida's population as a whole.

Table 50: Percentage of Females less than 45 years old or males less than 60 years old who report that they or their partner take measures to prevent pregnancy, Okeechobee, Florida, 2010

	Total
Florida	56.2% (54.1-58.4)
Okeechobee	60.4% (49.2-71.6)

Data Source: FloridaCHARTS, BRFSS, Florida Department of Health, Bureau of Epidemiology, 2010

Confidence intervals - Because the BRFSS is a random survey and all estimates of prevalence are subject to random sample errors, we include 95% confidence intervals (CI) with each prevalence (%) in the tables. The confidence interval ranges appear below the prevalence estimates in parentheses.

Compiled by: Health Council of Southeast Florida, 2011

INPATIENT UTILIZATION FOR MENTAL HEALTH

Number of Psychiatric Beds

Table 51 shows the number of psychiatric beds in Okeechobee County and in Florida. Raulerson Hospital does not have any psychiatric beds and therefore, residents of the county needing inpatient admission for psychiatric conditions must go to another facility.

Table 51: Child and Adolescent Psychiatric Beds, Okeechobee, Florida, 2008, 2009, 2010

	Number of Beds			Rate Per 100,000		
	2008	2009	2010	2008	2009	2010
Florida	657	645	555	3.5	3.4	3
Okeechobee	0	0	0	0	0	0

Data Source: FloridaCHARTS, Florida Agency for Health Care Administration (AHCA), Certificate of Need Office, 2010

Data Note(s): Data as of December of the specified year

Rates calculated using July 1 population estimates from the Office of the Governor.

Compiled by: Health Council of Southeast Florida, 2011

As illustrated in Table 52, results from the Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System survey, show that 85.6% of the population in the county, and 90.3% of the population in the state of Florida reported being in good mental health.

Table 52: Percentage of Adults with Good Mental Health, Okeechobee, Florida, 2007

County	Total	Quartile
Florida	90.3% (89.6-91.0)	
Okeechobee	85.6% (80.8-89.3)	4

Data Source: FloridaCHARTS, BRFSS conducted by the Florida Department of Health, Bureau of Epidemiology, 2007

Compiled by: Health Council of Southeast Florida, 2011

ALCOHOL CONSUMPTION AND SUBSTANCE ABUSE

According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, excessive alcohol consumption is the third leading lifestyle-related cause of death for people in the United States each year. Excessive drinking is a risk factor associated with number of adverse health outcomes. These include alcohol poisoning, hypertension, acute myocardial infarction, sexually transmitted infections, unintended pregnancy, fetal alcohol syndrome, sudden infant death syndrome, suicide, interpersonal violence, and motor vehicle crashes.⁶

Excessive drinking is defined by the Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System (BRFSS) as binge drinking and/or heavy drinking and is a frequently used indicator at the population level. Binge drinking is defined as drinking five or more drinks on a single occasion for men and four or more drinks on a single occasion for women. Heavy drinking is defined as drinking more than two drinks per day on average for men and more than one drink per day on average for women.⁷

As noted in Table 53, the percentage of males in the county who engage in heavy or binge drinking is 13.5% higher than the percentage of females engaging in heavy or binge drinking. The same trend can be observed for state of Florida where it shows that the percentage of males engaging in heavy or binge drinking is 9.3% higher than the percentage of females.

Table 53: Adults who Engage in Heavy or Binge Drinking by Sex, Okeechobee, Florida, 2010

	Male	Quartile	Female	Quartile
Florida	19.8% (18.0-21.6)		10.5% (9.6-11.4)	
Okeechobee	20% (10.5-29.4)	2	6.5% (3.5-9.4)	1

Source: FloridaCHARTS, BRFSS, Florida Department of Health, Bureau of Epidemiology

Confidence intervals - Because the BRFSS is a random survey and all estimates of prevalence are subject to random sample errors, we include 95% confidence intervals (CI) with each prevalence (%) in the tables. The confidence interval ranges appear below the prevalence estimates in parentheses.

Compiled by: Health Council of Southeast Florida, 2011

⁶ The University of Wisconsin, population Health Institute, County Health Rankings, <http://www.countryhealthrankings.org/health-factors/alcohol-use>

⁷ Centers for Disease Control and Prevention Web Site: Alcohol and Public Health. <http://www.cdc.gov/alcohol/index.htm>. Updated January 13, 2011. Accessed February 8, 2011

Table 54 shows an increase in the percentage of high school students who have used alcohol in the past 30 days in Okeechobee County between 2002 and 2008 as opposed to a slight decrease from 2002 to 2010 in the percentage in the state of Florida.

Table 54: Percent of High School Students Who Have Used Alcohol in Past 30 Days, 2001- 2010

	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010
Florida		40.8%		42%		41.8%	0	39.5%	0	38%
Okeechobee		43.8%		48.8%		46.3%	0	49.3%	0	0

Data Source: FloridaCHARTS, Florida Department of Children and Families, 2010

Data Note(s): Data source is the Florida Youth Substance Abuse Survey (FYSAS). Blanks indicate counties that did not participate in survey.

This is the percent of students reporting any use of alcohol in past 30 days. Data are not collected every year.

Compiled by: Health Council of Southeast Florida, 011

Table 55 shows youth consumption in previous 30 days in Okeechobee County and Florida in 2008. The percentage of youth using alcohol was nearly 10% higher in Okeechobee and binge drinking was 8.5% higher. Higher percentages of cigarette smoking, illicit drug and inhalant use were also reported among youth in Okeechobee County compared to youth in Florida as a whole.

Table 55: Youth Consumption in Previous 30 Days, Okeechobee, Florida, 2008

	Okeechobee	Florida
Any Alcohol	39.70%	29.80%
Binge Drinking	23.30%	14.80%
Cigarettes	13.50%	9.10%
Smokeless Tobacco Use	Data Unavailable	Data Unavailable
Marijuana or Hashish	11.50%	11.10%
Any Illicit Except Marijuana	11%	8.90%
Alcohol or Any Illicit Drug Use	43.10%	33.90%
Middle School Inhalant Use	6.80%	5.20%

Source: State Epidemiology Workgroup, FYSAS 2008

Compiled by: Health Council of Southeast Florida, 2011

VIOLENCE AND INJURY

Suicides and Self-Inflicted Injuries

Table 56 shows that the age-adjusted suicide death rate per 100,000 for Okeechobee has increased since 2007. In 2009 it exceeded the age-adjusted suicide rate in the state of Florida by 3.8%. The state of Florida had an increase of 1.4% from 2007 to 2009. In all three years shown, the suicide death rate was higher in Okeechobee than in Florida, ranging from 17.6-19.5 per 100,000. However, due to the small number of occurrences, the rate can be influenced considerably by a small change in number of events.

Table 56: Age-Adjusted Suicide Death Rate, Okeechobee, Florida, 2007, 2008, 2009

County	Number of Deaths			Age-Adjusted Death Rate		
	2007	2008	2009	2007	2008	2009
Florida	2,570	2,723	2,854	13	13.7	14.4
Okeechobee	7	8	7	17.6	19.5	18.2

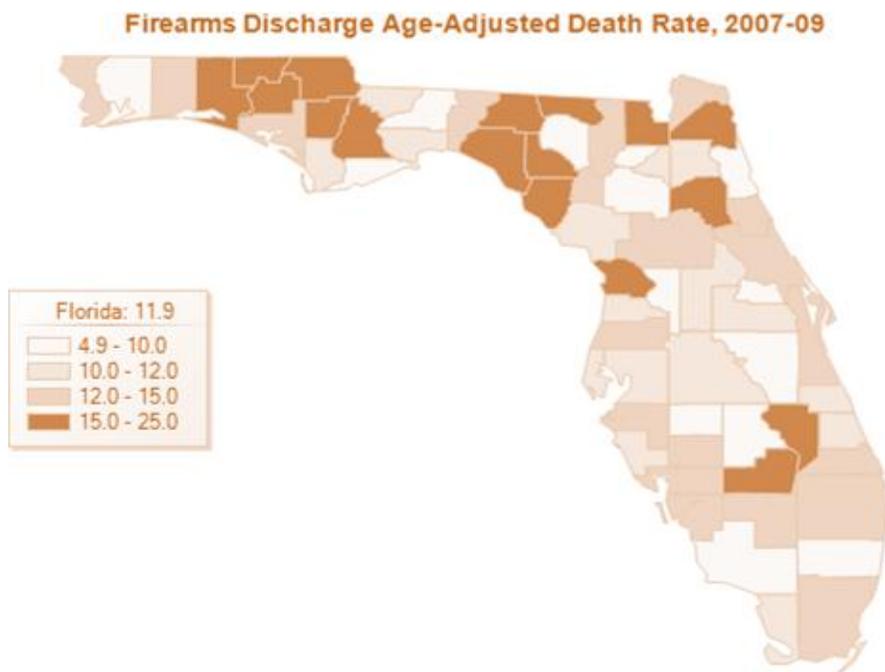
Data Source: FloridaCHARTS, Florida Department of Health, Bureau of Vital Statistics, 2009

Data Note(s): ICD-10 Code(s): X60-X84, Y87.0; Age-adjusted rates are calculated using the Year 2000 Standard Population Proportion. Population estimates are from July 1 of the specified year and are provided by the Office of the Governor.

Compiled by: Health Council of Southeast Florida

Injury from Firearm Discharge

Figure 16



Source: FloridaCHARTS

As illustrated in Table 57, over a 20 year span, the age-adjusted death rate due to firearms discharge in Okeechobee County has fluctuated showing no considerable change in the death rate from 1990 to 2009. From 1990 to 2009, Florida as a whole had a 6.1% decrease in the age-adjusted death rate. The rate fluctuated in Okeechobee partially due to the small number of events. The average rate in Okeechobee over the 20 years period was 19.1 deaths per 100,000 in the population during the same time period, the rate in Florida was 12.8 deaths per 100,000.

Table 57: Firearms Discharge Age-Adjusted Death Rate, Okeechobee, Florida, 1990-2009

Years	Okeechobee		Florida	
	Count	Rate	Count	Rate
1990	5	19.0	2,393	18.0
1991	10	36.1	2,287	17.0
1992	6	19.6	2,180	15.9
1993	6	19.2	2,260	16.3
1994	8	24.7	2,189	15.5
1995	6	16.8	2,112	14.4
1996	7	22.4	2,059	13.9
1997	6	17.8	1,963	12.8
1998	8	18.8	1,877	11.9
1999	7	18.1	1,705	10.6
2000	13	34.7	1,791	10.8
2001	7	16.8	1,799	10.6
2002	6	13.1	1,869	10.8
2003	4	8.8	1,929	10.9
2004	4	10.1	1,875	10.3
2005	6	15.8	1,815	9.8
2006	8	17.3	2,059	10.8
2007	6	15.4	2,241	11.8
2008	8	19.5	2,314	12.0
2009	7	18.0	2,307	11.9

Source: FloridaCHARTS, 2009

HOSPITAL UTILIZATION

Utilization at Raulerson Hospital

Raulerson Hospital is the only hospital in Okeechobee County and it offers a range of healthcare services which include but are not limited to: cardiopulmonary services for both inpatients and outpatients, radiology, diagnostic imaging, emergency care, outpatient services, physical medicine and rehabilitation and a full range of inpatient and outpatient surgical services.

Tables 58 through 65 detail Raulerson Hospital utilization including: occupancy rate, average length of stay, number of admissions, total patient days, Medicare eligible admissions, acute care, medical surgical services, critical care utilization, emergency department utilization, total hospital procedures, observations cases, available beds and discharges for January 2010 to December 2010.

Table 58: Total Hospital Utilization for Raulerson Hospital, January - December 2010

Agency Name	Beds Licensed	Average Daily Census	Occupancy Rate	Number of Admissions	Patient Days	Average Length of Stay
Raulerson Hospital	101	56.4	55.90%	4,459	20,591	4.6

Data Source: healthdata.brphc.org, 2011
Health Council of Southeast Florida 2011

Table 59: Total Hospital Medicare Eligible (65+) for Raulerson Hospital, January – December 2010

Agency Name	Admissions 65+	Admissions % Total	Patient Days 65+	Days % Total	65+ Average length of stay
Raulerson Hospital	1,519	0.34	7,726	37.50%	5.1

Data Source: Health Council of Southeast Florida 2011

Table 60: Acute Care, Medical Surgical Services & Critical Care Utilization Totals for Raulerson Hospital January - December 2010

Agency Name	Beds Allocated	Avg. Daily Census	Occupancy Rate	Number of Admissions	Patient Days	Average Length of Stay
Raulerson Hospital						
Acute Care	101	56.4	55.90%	4,459	20,591	4.6
Medical Surgical Services	93	48.7	52.30%	3,931	17,767	4.5
Critical Care Utilization	8	7.7	96.70%	528	2,824	5.3

Data Source: Health Council of Southeast Florida 2011

Table 61: Hospital Emergency Department Utilization Totals for Raulerson Hospital January - December 2010

Agency Name	Adult Visits	Pediatric Visits	Total Visits	Adult Admit	Pediatric Admit	Total Admit
Raulerson Hospital	21,154	0	22,869	3,281	0	3,603

Data Source: Health Council of Southeast Florida 2011

Table 62: Total Hospital Procedures - Surgical Operations for Raulerson Hospital January - December 2010

Agency Name	Inpatient	Outpatient	Total
Raulerson Hospital	1,055	1,132	2,187

Data Source: Health Council of Southeast Florida 2011

Table 63: Procedure Utilization Totals, Raulerson Hospital, January - December 2010

Category	# of procedures
CT Scans	5484
MRI	1879
Shock Wave Lithotripter	52

Data Source: Health Council of Southeast Florida 2011

Table 64: Observations Utilization Totals for Raulerson Hospital, January - December 2010

Agency Name	Observation Cases
Raulerson Hospital	750

Data Source: Health Council of Southeast Florida 2011

Table 65: Available Beds, Discharges, Discharge Days Utilization Totals for Okeechobee January - December 2010

Agency Name	Available Beds	Discharges	Discharge Days
Raulerson Hospital	1,212	1,507	0

Data Source: Health Council of Southeast Florida 2011

EMERGENCY DEPARTMENT UTILIZATION

Emergency Department Acuity

Table 66 shows Emergency Department visit counts by Okeechobee residents in 2010, organized by severity of condition. The top 10 most visited facilities are shown in the table. The most visits were to Raulerson Hospital with 16,833. Of those, 8,882 were moderate severity, 5,340 were high severity/non-immediate and 1,224 were high-severity/immediate. Five hundred twenty-seven visits were made by Okeechobee residents to Lawnwood Regional Medical Center, 431 of which were moderate severity and above. One hundred eighty-four visits were made to Martin Memorial Medical Center, 126 of which were moderate severity or above.

Table 66: Emergency Department Visits by Okeechobee Residents by Hospital, by Acuity, 2010

	81-Minor severity	82-Low/moderate severity	83-Moderate severity	84-High severity/non-immediate	85-High severity/immediate	Grand Total
Grand Total	560	1,205	9,702	5,956	1,472	18,895
Raulerson Hospital	432	955	8,882	5,340	1,224	16,833
Lawnwood Regional Medical Center & Heart Institute	34	62	188	175	68	527
Martin Memorial Medical Center	7	51	71	37	18	184
Florida Hospital Lake Placid	1	12	55	38	29	135
Indian River Medical Center	5	12	44	46	11	118
Saint Lucie Medical Center	10	6	41	43	2	102
Florida Hospital Heartland Medical Center	3	4	34	46	8	95
Martin Memorial Hospital South	3	20	42	16	7	88
Palms West Hospital	3	7	46	21	11	88
Saint Mary's Medical Center	7	7	25	34	7	80

Source: Florida Agency for Healthcare Administration, Emergency Department Database, 2010
 Compiled by: Health Council of Southeast Florida, 2011

OTHER HOSPITALIZATION DATA

Chronic Disease Hospitalizations

Table 67 lists those hospitals which that have admitted Okeechobee residents for a variety of medical conditions including AIDS, asthma, congestive heart failure, diabetes, hypertension and sickle cell disease. The hospitals with the largest number of hospitalization of Okeechobee County residents include: Raulerson Hospital, Lawnwood Regional Medical Center & Heart Institute, St. Lucie Medical Center, and Indian River Medical Center. In 2010, 4,174 Okeechobee residents were hospitalized at Raulerson Hospital.

Table 67: Chronic Disease Hospitalization, Okeechobee Residents, 2010

Hospital	AIDS	Asthma	Congestiv e Heart Failure	Diabetes	Hypertensi on	Sickle Cell	Grand Total
Bethesda Memorial Hospital			2	5	4		11
Boca Raton Community Hospital				1			1
Columbia Hospital		6	2	6	10		24
Delray Medical Center					2		2
Glades General Hospital					1		1
Good Samaritan Medical Center				11	9		20
Healthsouth Treasure Coast Rehab		1	8	16	15		40
Indian River Medical Center		5	19	31	52		107
JFK Medical Center		5	25	28	55		113
Jupiter Medical Center		5	2	7	16		30
Lawnwood Regional Med Center	1	28	141	317	451		938
Martin Memorial Hospital South		3	3	11	15		32
Martin Memorial Medical Center		3	5	18	49		75
Other		2	6	6	9		23
Palm Beach Gardens Medical Center		3	6	18	26		53
Palms West Hospital		11	12	32	11		66
Port Saint Lucie Hospital		1			4		5
Raulerson Hospital	12	173	709	1328	1951	1	4174
Saint Lucie Medical Center		8	15	37	73		133
Saint Mary's Medical Center		14	2	7	18	1	42
Sebastian River Medical Center					4		4
Select Specialty Hospital-Palm Beach				1	1		2
Wellington Regional Medical Center				4	5		9
West Boca Medical Center							
Grand Total	13	268	957	1884	2781	2	5905

Source: Agency for Healthcare Administration, 2010
Compiled by: Health Council of Southeast Florida, 2011

Prevention Quality Indicators

“The Prevention Quality Indicators (PQI) are measures of potentially avoidable hospitalizations for Ambulatory Care Sensitive Conditions (ACSCs), which, though they rely on hospital discharge data, are intended to reflect issues of access to, and quality of, ambulatory care in a given geographic area.”⁸ ACSC “are conditions for which good outpatient care can potentially prevent the need for hospitalization or for which early intervention can prevent complications or more severe disease. The PQIs are population based and adjusted for covariates. Even though these indicators are based on hospital inpatient data, they provide insight into the community health care system or services outside the hospital setting”.⁹ In terms of assessing PQIs, an ideal PQI, though not likely feasible, is zero. The numerator is the number of ‘cases’ and the denominator is a standard figure determined by the Agency for Healthcare Research.

Tables 68 shows the PQIs for Okeechobee residents discharged from any Florida hospital. Table 69 shows patients from any county discharged from Raulerson Hospital.

Table 68: PQI (Prevent Quality Indicators) Okeechobee Residents Discharged from any Florida Hospital, 2010

PQI	Numerator	Denominator	Observed Rate
01-Diabetes/short-term	12	34297	0.00035
02-Perf. Appendicitis	7	35	0.2
03-Diabetes/long-term	81	34297	0.002362
05-Chronic obstructive PD	285	34297	0.00831
07-Hypertension	31	34297	0.000904
08-Congestive HF	257	34297	0.007493
09-Low birth weight	42	550	0.076364
10-Dehydration	47	34297	0.00137
11-Bacterial pneumonia	114	34297	0.003324
12-Urinary infections	80	34297	0.002333
13-Angina w/o procedure	69	34297	0.002012
14-Uncontrolled diabetes	10	34297	0.000292
15-Adult asthma	73	34297	0.002128
16-Diabetes/LE amputations	13	34297	0.000379

Source: BRHPC.org

Compiled by: Health Council of Southeast Florida, 2011

⁸ Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality, “Patient Quality Indicators (PQI) Composite Measure Workgroup Final Report,” (April 2006).

⁹ www.qualityindicators.ahrq.gov/modules/pqi_overview.aspx

Table 69: PQI (Prevention Quality Indicators) Okeechobee (Raulerson) Hospital, Patient from Anywhere, 2010

PQI	Numerator	Denominator	Observed Rate
01-Diabetes/short-term	15	34297	0.000437
02-Perf. Appendicitis	4	23	0.173913
03-Diabetes/long-term	74	34297	0.002158
05-Chronic obstructive PD	299	34297	0.008718
07-Hypertension	29	34297	0.000846
08-Congestive HF	264	34297	0.007697
09-Low birth weight	N/A	N/A	N/A
10-Dehydration	54	34297	0.001574
11-Bacterial pneumonia	100	34297	0.002916
12-Urinary infections	78	34297	0.002274
13-Angina w/o procedure	72	34297	0.002099
14-Uncontrolled diabetes	10	34297	0.000292
15-Adult asthma	75	34297	0.002187
16-Diabetes/LE amputations	10	34297	0.000292

Source: BRHPC.org
 Compiled by: Health Council of Southeast Florida, 2011

Top Diagnosis Related Groups (DRGs)

Diagnosis Related Group is a classification system used for hospital cases. Table 70 shows the top 25 Diagnosis Related Groups (DRGs) for Raulerson Hospital in 2010. Table 71 show the top 25 Diagnosis Related Groups (DRGs) for Okeechobee residents from any Florida hospital. Notable differences are that the top two DRGs for Okeechobee residents are ‘Normal Newborn’, accounting for 5.03% of discharges and “vaginal delivery without complicating diagnosis”, accounting for 3.91% of discharges. These are not patients are not being treated at Raulerson Hospital. Additionally, the 5th most common DRG for Okeechobee residents is “psychoses” accounting for 1.99% of discharges for Okeechobee residents are not occurring at Raulerson Hospital.

Table 70: Top Specific DRGs Raulerson Hospital, 2010

	Category	DRG	# Discharges	% Discharges
1	Gastroenterology	392 - Esophagitis,gastroent & misc digest disorders w/o MCC	208	4.67%
2	Respiratory	192 - Chronic obstructive pulmonary disease w/o CC/MCC	168	3.77%
3	Medicine, General	871 - Septicemia w/o MV 96+ hours w MCC	158	3.54%
4	Respiratory	191 - Chronic obstructive pulmonary disease w CC	149	3.34%
5	Cardiology	292 - Heart failure & shock w CC	133	2.98%
6	Cardiology	303 - Atherosclerosis w/o MCC	119	2.67%
7	Cardiology	291 - Heart failure & shock w MCC	107	2.40%
8	Respiratory	190 - Chronic obstructive pulmonary disease w MCC	106	2.38%
9	Dermatology	603 - Cellulitis w/o MCC	101	2.27%
10	Cardiology	313 - Chest pain	92	2.06%
11	Cardiology	310 - Cardiac arrhythmia & conduction disorders w/o CC/MCC	87	1.95%
12	Neurology	069 - Transient ischemia	83	1.86%
13	Cardiology	312 - Syncope & collapse	82	1.84%
14	Cardiology	311 - Angina pectoris	71	1.59%
15	Endocrine, Metabolic Disorders	641 - Nutritional & misc metabolic disorders w/o MCC	67	1.50%
16	Nephrology	690 - Kidney & urinary tract infections w/o MCC	67	1.50%
17	Medicine, General	872 - Septicemia w/o MV 96+ hours w/o MCC	53	1.19%
18	Respiratory	189 - Pulmonary edema & respiratory failure	50	1.12%
19	Neurology	065 - Intracranial hemorrhage or cerebral infarction w CC	50	1.12%
20	Cardiology	293 - Heart failure & shock w/o CC/MCC	49	1.10%
21	Gastroenterology	378 - G.I. hemorrhage w CC	49	1.10%
22	Respiratory	194 - Simple pneumonia & pleurisy w CC	48	1.08%
23	Cardiology	309 - Cardiac arrhythmia & conduction disorders w CC	46	1.03%
24	Cardiology	280 - Acute myocardial infarction, discharged alive w MCC	44	0.99%
25	Gastroenterology	440 - Disorders of pancreas except malignancy w/o CC/MCC	41	0.92%

Source: Florida Agency for Health Care Administration Inpatient Discharge Data (healthdata.brhpc.org), 2010

Compiled by: Health Council of Southeast Florida, 2011

Table 71: Top specific DRGS, Okeechobee Residents, any Florida Hospital, 2010

	Category	DRG	# Discharges	% of Discharges
1	Normal Newborn	795 - Normal newborn	394	5.03%
2	Delivery	775 - Vaginal delivery w/o complicating diagnoses	306	3.91%
3	Gastroenterology	392 - Esophagitis, gastroent & misc digest disorders w/o MCC	231	2.95%
4	Medicine, General	871 - Septicemia w/o MV 96+ hours w MCC	182	2.32%
5	Psychiatry	885 – Psychoses	156	1.99%
6	Respiratory	192 - Chronic obstructive pulmonary disease w/o CC/MCC	152	1.94%
7	Cardiology	287 - Circulatory disorders except AMI, w card cath w/o MCC	142	1.81%
8	Respiratory	191 - Chronic obstructive pulmonary disease w CC	135	1.72%
9	Cardiology	292 - Heart failure & shock w CC	129	1.65%
10	Delivery	766 - Cesarean section w/o CC/MCC	124	1.58%
11	Orthopedics	470 - Major joint replacement or reattachment of lower extremity w/o MCC	121	1.54%
12	Dermatology	603 - Cellulitis w/o MCC	117	1.49%
13	Cardiology	313 - Chest pain	113	1.44%
14	Respiratory	190 - Chronic obstructive pulmonary disease w MCC	110	1.40%
15	Cardiology	291 - Heart failure & shock w MCC	104	1.33%
16	Cardiology	303 - Atherosclerosis w/o MCC	98	1.25%
17	Neurology	069 - Transient ischemia	89	1.14%
18	Cardiology	310 - Cardiac arrhythmia & conduction disorders w/o CC/MCC	85	1.09%
19	Cardiology	312 - Syncope & collapse	85	1.09%
20	Neonatology	794 - Neonate w other significant problems	78	1.00%
21	Endocrine, Metabolic Disorders	641 - Nutritional & misc metabolic disorders w/o MCC	72	0.92%
22	Nephrology	690 - Kidney & urinary tract infections w/o MCC	72	0.92%
23	Cardiology	311 - Angina pectoris	68	0.87%
24	Gynecology	743 - Uterine & adnexa proc for non-malignancy w/o CC/MCC	65	0.83%
25	Neurology	065 - Intracranial hemorrhage or cerebral infarction w CC	64	0.82%

Source: healthdata.brhpc.org, 2010

Compiled by: Health Council of Southeast Florida, 2011

NURSING HOME UTILIZATION

Okeechobee Healthcare is the only nursing home located in Okeechobee. The 180 bed facility had an average occupancy of 92% in 2010. Table 66 shows utilization data for the facility in 2010. There were a total of 545 admissions and a total of 60,341 patient days for 2010. Medicare clients account for the highest payer source at 77% of the total number of admissions.

Table 72: Nursing Home Utilization for Okeechobee 2010

Okeechobee Healthcare 2010 Utilization	
LICENSED BEDS	
No. of Beds	180
% Occupancy	92%
ADC	165.3
ADMISSIONS	
Total	545
Private	6
Medicaid	23
Medicare	420
Hospice	0
Insurance	7
HMO/PPO	89
VA	0
Indigent/Charity	0
PATIENT DAYS	
Total	60,341
Private	1,510
Medicaid	42,028
Medicare	14,963
Hospice	0
Insurance	196
HMO/PPO	1,644
VA	0
Indigent/Charity	0
Average Census	1,984

Data Source: Health Council of Southeast Florida 2011

MORBIDITY

Morbidity is simply another term for illness. Individuals can present with several morbidities simultaneously. The tables below illustrate the number of and the rates of hospitalizations for the following diseases: coronary heart disease, cardiovascular disease, stroke, chronic lower respiratory disease (CLRD), cancer, enteric disease, obesity, communicable diseases, including HIV/AIDS and other sexually transmitted diseases.

Coronary Heart Disease

Heart disease is the leading cause of death for people of most ethnicities in the United States, including African-Americans, American Indians or Alaska Natives, Hispanics and Whites. According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), coronary heart disease (CHD) is the most common type of heart disease. In 2010, heart disease will cost the United States \$316.4 billion.¹⁰

As shown in Table 73, Okeechobee County and the state of Florida both show a downward trend in the number of hospitalizations due to coronary heart disease in the years of 2007-2009. The rate however, is considerable higher in Okeechobee than in Florida. In 2009, the rate in Okeechobee was 1,370.4 per 100,000 population; this is nearly 2.5 times the rate in Florida as a whole. Tables 73a and 73b show age-adjusted hospitalizations from or with Coronary Heart Disease by race and by ethnicity. In 2009, the rate of hospitalizations for White individuals was lower than that for individuals who are Black or other races. Data is not available, from the data source used, for 2008 and 2009 for Okeechobee with regard to ethnicity, however, in 2007 there was considerable disparity between Hispanic and non-Hispanic individuals with the rate of hospitalizations in non-Hispanic individuals being over 3 times the rate in Hispanics.

Table 73: Hospitalizations From or With Coronary Heart Disease, Okeechobee, Florida, 2007, 2008, 2009

	Number of Hospitalizations			Rate Per 100,000		
	2007	2008	2009	2007	2008	2009
Florida	120,392	112,918	103,981	642.7	600.2	552.5
Okeechobee	675	649	550	1,729.1	1,618.9	1,370.4

Data Source: FloridaCHARTS, Florida Agency for Health Care Administration (AHCA)

Data Note(s): ICD-9-CM Code(s): 49-CM-414, 429.2. Includes primary diagnosis only.

Rates calculated using July 1 population estimates from the Office of the Governor.

Compiled by: Health Council of Southeast Florida, 2011

¹⁰ Lloyd-Jones D, Adams RJ, Brown TM, et al. Heart Disease and Stroke Statistics-2010. Update. A report from the American Heart Association Statistics Committee and Stroke Statistics Subcommittee. <http://circ.ahajournals.org/legi/reprint/circulationaha.108.191261v1>. Circulation, 2010;121:e1-e170.

Table 73a: Hospitalizations from or with Coronary Heart Disease, Age-Adjusted, by Race, Okeechobee and Florida, 2007, 2008, 2009

Year	Okeechobee				Florida			
	White		Black & Other		White		Black & Other	
	Count	Rate	Count	Rate	Count	Rate	Count	Rate
2007	623	1418.6	43	1409.7	105,367	486	13,635	451.3
2008	589	1310.5	56	1880.7	95,990	436.6	15,848	506.5
2009	511	1141	37	1239.3	87,997	395.9	15,062	466.2

Source: FloridaCHARTS, Florida Agency for Health Care Administration (AHCA)
 Notes: ICD-9-CM Code(s): 49-CM-414, 429.2. Includes primary diagnosis only
 Compiled by: Health Council of Southeast Florida

Table 73b: Hospitalizations from or with Coronary Heart Disease, Age-Adjusted, by Ethnicity, Okeechobee and Florida, 2007, 2008, 2009

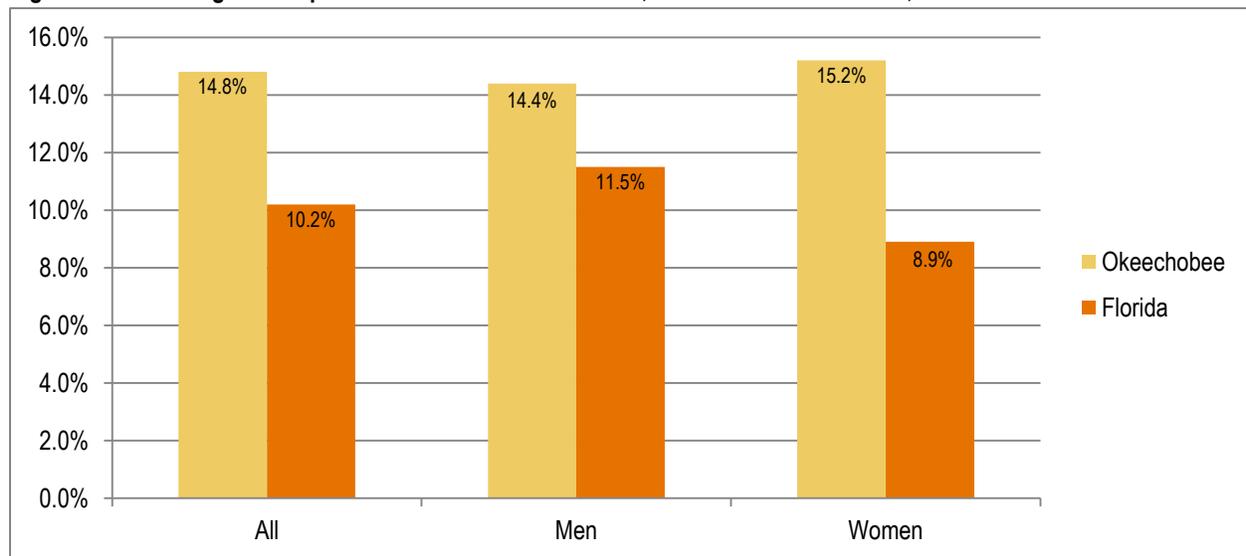
Year	Okeechobee				Florida			
	Hispanic		Non-Hispanic		Hispanic		Non-Hispanic	
	Count	Rate	Count	Rate	Count	Rate	Count	Rate
2007	17	423.8	649	1542.5	10,689	309.8	108,313	514.1
2008			641	1495.2	8,780	243	103,061	484.7
2009			545	1284.1	9,395	253.9	93,666	436.4

Source: FloridaCHARTS, Florida Agency for Health Care Administration (AHCA)
 Notes: ICD-9-CM Code(s): 49-CM-414, 429.2. Includes primary diagnosis only
 Compiled by: Health Council of Southeast Florida

Cardiovascular Disease

Figure 17 shows cardiovascular disease in Okeechobee County and in Florida by gender for 2010 using data from the Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System.

Figure 17: Percentage of People with Cardiovascular Disease, Okeechobee and Florida, 2010



Source: Florida Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System Data Report, 2010
 Compiled by: Health Council of Southeast Florida, 2011

Stroke

As shown in Table 74, the rate of hospitalizations due to stroke is slowly decreasing in the state of Florida. However, Okeechobee County does not present a clear trend as the number of hospitalizations has fluctuated over time. The rate per 100,000 is higher in Okeechobee County for all years shown. Tables 74a and 74b show age-adjusted hospitalizations from stroke by race and ethnicity. There is considerable racial disparity in the rate of hospitalizations in Okeechobee with individuals who are Black or other non-White races having over six times the rate of hospitalizations due to stroke than White individuals. Data is not available, from the data source used, for 2008 and 2009 for Okeechobee with regard to ethnicity, however, in 2007 there was considerable disparity between Hispanic and non-Hispanic individuals related to hospitalizations from stroke with Hispanic individuals having a nearly 50% higher rate.

Table 74: Hospitalizations From Stroke, Okeechobee, Florida, 2007, 2008, 2009

	Number of Hospitalizations			Rate Per 100,000		
	2007	2008	2009	2007	2008	2009
Florida	70106	69482	69432	374.3	369.3	368.9
Okeechobee	268	261	302	686.5	651.1	752.5

Data Source: FloridaCHARTS, Florida Agency for Health Care Administration (AHCA)
 Data Note(s): ICD-9-CM Code(s): 430-438. Includes primary diagnosis only.
 Rates calculated using July 1 population estimates from the Office of the Governor.
 Compiled by: Health Council of Southeast Florida, 2011

Table 74a: Hospitalizations From Stroke, Age-adjusted, by Race, Okeechobee and Florida, 2007, 2008, 2009

Year	Okeechobee				Florida			
	White		Black & Other		White		Black & Other	
	Count	Rate	Count	Rate	Count	Rate	Count	Rate
2007	243	515.1	22	2388.1	57,885	256.9	11,589	1805.5
2008	231	489.6	27	3011.2	55,804	244.1	13,168	1953.5
2009	269	578.5	33	3664.9	55,455	240.1	13,571	1898.8

Source: FloridaCHARTS, Florida Agency for Health Care Administration (AHCA)
 Notes: ICD-9-CM Code(s): 430-438. Includes primary diagnosis only
 Compiled by: Health Council of Southeast Florida

Table 74b: Hospitalizations From Stroke, Age-adjusted, by Ethnicity, Okeechobee and Florida, 2007, 2008, 2009

Year	Okeechobee				Florida			
	Hispanic		Non-Hispanic		Hispanic		Non-Hispanic	
	Count	Rate	Count	Rate	Count	Rate	Count	Rate
2007	11	383.8	254	560.2	6,479	191.3	62,995	292.6
2008			258	571.8	5,449	153.7	63,524	292
2009			302	692.1	6,198	169.6	62,830	287.2

Source: FloridaCHARTS, Florida Agency for Health Care Administration (AHCA)
 Notes: ICD-9-CM Code(s): 430-438. Includes primary diagnosis only
 Compiled by: Health Council of Southeast Florida

Chronic Lower Respiratory Disease (CLRD)

As shown in Table 75 in Okeechobee County, the number of hospitalizations from CLRD has increased from 449 in 2007 to 510 in 2009. Tables 75a and 75b show age-adjusted hospitalizations from CLRD by race and ethnicity. Data was not available for Okeechobee, from the source used, for race for all years shown, however in 2007 the rate of hospitalization for Black and other races was over double that of White individuals. The rates among Hispanic and non-Hispanic individuals in Okeechobee were similar in the time period shown.

Table 75: Hospitalizations From CLRD. (including asthma), Okeechobee, Florida, 2007, 2008, 2009

	Number of Hospitalizations			Rate Per 100,000		
	2007	2008	2009	2007	2008	2009
Florida	69,999	80,412	86,170	373.7	427.4	457.9
Okeechobee	449	522	510	1,150.2	1,302.1	1,270.8

Data Source: FloridaCHARTS, Florida Agency for Health Care Administration (AHCA)

Data Note(s): ICD-9-CM Code(s): 490-496. Includes primary diagnosis only.

Rates calculated using July 1 population estimates from the Office of the Governor.

Compiled by: Health Council of Southeast Florida, 2011

Table 75a: Hospitalizations From C.L.R.D., Age-adjusted, by Race, Okeechobee and Florida, 2007, 2008, 2009

Year	Okeechobee				Florida			
	White		Black & Other		White		Black & Other	
	Count	Rate	Count	Rate	Count	Rate	Count	Rate
2007	11	412.2	437	1054	8,547	239.8	61,160	329.7
2008			519	1239.4	7,914	211.8	72,201	377.2
2009			506	1213	9,830	257.5	76,054	400.6

Source: FloridaCHARTS, Florida Agency for Health Care Administration (AHCA)

Notes: ICD-9-CM Code(s): 490-496. Includes primary diagnosis only

Compiled by: Health Council of Southeast Florida

Hospitalizations From C.L.R.D., Age-adjusted, by Race, Okeechobee and Florida, 2007, 2008, 2009

Year	Okeechobee				Florida			
	Hispanic		Non-Hispanic		Hispanic		Non-Hispanic	
	Count	Rate	Count	Rate	Count	Rate	Count	Rate
2007	415	932.2	33	985.5	56,331	288.8	13,376	397.2
2008	482	1082	37	1165.5	64,636	320.3	15,479	457.2
2009	470	1048.2	39	1211.4	68,458	339.8	17,426	494.8

Source: FloridaCHARTS, Florida Agency for Health Care Administration (AHCA)

Notes: ICD-9-CM Code(s): 490-496. Includes primary diagnosis only

Compiled by: Health Council of Southeast Florida

Cancer Incidence

According to the American Cancer Society, cancer incidence is rising and is expected to continue to increase at the national and state level. Table 76 shows that the incidence rate remained relatively stable in Okeechobee over the three years shown. Table 76a shows age-adjusted cancer incidence by race. During the time period shown, the rate among Black and other non-White individuals increased, however this could be due to the small number of occurrences. In 2008, the rates were similar between White individuals and individuals who are Black or other races, however in the previous two years the rate among White individuals was higher.

Table 76: Cancer Incidence (All Types), Okeechobee, Florida, 2006, 2007, 2008

	Number of Cases			Rate Per 100,000		
	2006	2007	2008	2006	2007	2008
Florida	103,293	106,022	108,373	560.1	566	576.1
Okeechobee	232	229	234	597.6	586.6	583.7

Data Source: FloridaCHARTS, University of Miami (FL) Medical School, Florida Cancer Data System
 Data Note(s): ICD-10 Code(s): C00-C97. Rates are not displayed for fewer than 10 cases.
 Rates calculated using July 1 population estimates from the Office of the Governor.

Table 76a: Cancer Incidence, Age-Adjusted, by Race, Okeechobee and Florida, 2006, 2007, 2008

Year	Okeechobee				Florida			
	White		Black & Other		White		Black & Other	
	Count	Rate	Count	Rate	Count	Rate	Count	Rate
2006	211	481.6	10	339.7	90,974	459.7	10,726	381.4
2007	210	472.7	10	313.5	92,772	461.8	11,506	391
2008	219	484	14	471	94,518	466.1	12,356	401.5

Source: FloridaCharts, Data Source: University of Miami (FL) Medical School, Florida Cancer Data System
 Notes: ICD-10 Code(s): C00-C97.
 Compiled by: Health Council of Southeast Florida

Breast, Cervical, Colorectal, Lung and Prostate Cancer Incidence

Table 77 shows cancer incidence by type in Okeechobee and Florida. Rates of breast cancer are comparable between Okeechobee and the state of Florida as a whole. In the three years, shown there are very few new cases of cervical cancer diagnoses in Okeechobee compared to Florida with a rate of 9.5 per 100,000 in 2008. Okeechobee County has a higher lung cancer incidence with an average rate of 123 per 100,000 over the three year period. Prostate cancer incidence was consistently lower over the three year period in Okeechobee.

Table 77: Cancer Incidence by Type, Okeechobee, Florida, 2006, 2007, 2008

	Florida						Okeechobee					
	Number of Cases			Rate Per 100,000			Number of Cases			Rate Per 100,000		
	2006	2007	2008	2006	2007	2008	2006	2007	2008	2006	2007	2008
All Cancers												
Breast Cancer*	12,826	13,277	13,749	136.2	138.9	143.3	23	29	26	126.6	158.5	138.6
Cervical Cancer*	907	880	907	9.6	9.2	9.5	3	0	1			
Colorectal Cancer	10,173	10,001	10,199	55.2	53.4	54.2	24	26	20	61.8	66.6	49.9
Lung Cancer	16,154	15,854	16,339	87.6	84.6	86.9	48	53	44	123.6	135.8	109.8
Prostate Cancer**	14,043	15,151	14,391	155.6	165.2	156.1	29	24	24	140.4	115.7	112.5

Data Source: FloridaCHARTS, University of Miami (FL) Medical School, Florida Cancer Data System

Rates calculated using July 1 population estimates from the Office of the Governor.

*Rate calculated using female population

** Rates calculated using male population

Enteric Disease Outbreaks

Table 78 shows considerable fluctuations for enteric disease outbreaks for the last 10 years in the state of Florida with 1,119 outbreaks in 2010. For the majority of the years shown there are no outbreaks in Okeechobee County.

Table 78: Enteric Disease Cases in Outbreaks

	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010
Florida	784	1,396	1,392	611	601	723	1,567	936	947	1,119
Okeechobee	0	0	0	0	1	1	0	1	0	0

Data Source: FloridaCHARTS, Florida Department of Health, Bureau of Epidemiology, 2010

Data Note(s): Includes: CAMPYLOBACTERIOSIS, GIARDIASIS, HEPATITIS A, SALMONELLOSIS, SHIGELLOSIS. Beginning in 2007, data includes both probable and confirmed cases.

Obesity

Obesity is often associated with poor health outcomes and rapidly increases the risk of mortality. Obese individuals are likely to develop other diseases such as high blood pressure, high cholesterol, heart disease, stroke, some types of cancer and orthopedic issues.

Table 79 indicates that Okeechobee has the 8th highest percentage of obesity in the state.

Table 79: Percentage of Obese Adults, Sorted Highest to Lowest, Florida and Counties, 2010

County	Total Percentage	Quartile	County	Total Percentage	Quartile
Florida	27.2%				
Hardee	46.1%	4	Miami-Dade	29.3%	2
Hamilton	44.8%	4	Flagler	29.3%	2
Union	42.0%	4	Jackson	29.2%	2
Lafayette	41.7%	4	Okaloosa	28.8%	2
Taylor	40.2%	4	Walton	28.6%	2
Liberty	40.1%	4	Duval	28.4%	2
Glades	39.6%	4	Bay	28.2%	2
Okeechobee	38.1%	4	Holmes	28.2%	2
Hendry	38.0%	4	Broward	28.0%	2
Polk	37.6%	4	Orange	27.8%	2
Wakulla	37.5%	4	Suwannee	27.4%	2
Gadsden	36.6%	4	Lee	27.3%	2
Jefferson	36.3%	4	Sumter	27.2%	2
Baker	36.0%	4	Franklin	27.0%	2
Washington	35.0%	4	Volusia	26.8%	2
Calhoun	34.7%	4	Seminole	26.4%	2
Marion	33.7%	3	Clay	25.9%	2
DeSoto	33.4%	3	Hillsborough	25.3%	1
Dixie	32.8%	3	Gilchrist	24.7%	1
Madison	32.8%	3	Indian River	24.1%	1
Levy	32.1%	3	Pinellas	24.0%	1
Osceola	31.9%	3	Nassau	23.8%	1
St. Lucie	31.4%	3	Citrus	23.4%	1
Putnam	31.3%	3	Gulf	23.2%	1
Columbia	30.9%	3	Manatee	22.5%	1
Brevard	30.7%	3	Collier	22.4%	1
Pasco	30.6%	3	St. Johns	22.0%	1
Bradford	30.4%	3	Charlotte	21.7%	1
Highlands	30.3%	3	Leon	21.7%	1
Hernando	29.8%	3	Alachua	21.6%	1
Lake	29.8%	3	Martin	21.1%	1
Santa Rosa	29.8%	3	Sarasota	20.8%	1
Escambia	29.7%	3	Palm Beach	19.4%	1
			Monroe	17.4%	1

Data Source: BRFSS conducted by the Florida Department of Health, Bureau of Epidemiology, 2010
 *95% confidence intervals have been removed from original data source
 Compiled by: Health Council of Southeast Florida, 2011

INFECTIOUS DISEASE

Tuberculosis

Table 80 shows that for the past 5 years there has been a steady decline in the number of tuberculosis cases reported for the state of Florida. The number of cases per year in Okeechobee County is quite low and range from 0-6 cases over the 10 years period.

Table 80: Tuberculosis Cases, Okeechobee, Florida, 2001 - 2010

	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010
Florida	1,145	1,086	1,046	1,076	1,094	1,038	989	953	821	835
Okeechobee	2	0	2	6	4	1	2	5	3	4

Data Source: FloridaCHARTS, Florida Department of Health, Bureau of TB & Refugee Health
Compiled by: Health Council of Southeast Florida, 2011

Reportable Diseases

As seen in Table 81, the number of reported diseases for Okeechobee and Florida decreased from 2009 to 2010.

Table 81: Total Reportable Disease Cases, Okeechobee, Florida, 2008, 2009, 2010

	Number of Cases			Rate Per 100,000		
	2008	2009	2010	2008	2009	2010
Florida	17,907	24,727	20,455	95.2	131.4	108.9
Okeechobee	42	69	45	104.8	171.9	113.2

Data Source: FloridaCHARTS, Florida Department of Health, Bureau of Epidemiology, 2010
Data Note(s): Includes all reportable diseases. Beginning in 2007, data includes both probable and confirmed cases.
Rates calculated using July 1 population estimates from the Office of the Governor.
Compiled by: Health Council of Southeast Florida, 2011

HIV Incidence

As shown in Table 82, the rate of reported new HIV cases per 100,000 people in Okeechobee County decreased from 8 in 2008 to 1 in 2010. Florida as a whole also experienced a decrease in the number of HIV reported incidences since 2008.

Table 82: HIV Incidence, Okeechobee, Florida, 2008, 2009, 2010

	Number of Reported New Cases			Rate Per 100,000		
	2008	2009	2010	2008	2009	2010
Florida	7,111	5,608	5,211	37.8	29.8	27.7
Okeechobee	8	2	1	20	5	2.5

Data Source: FloridaCHARTS, Florida Department of Health, Bureau of HIV/AIDS

Data Note(s): Generally, HIV cases remained fairly stable with an increase in 2002 due to increased HIV testing statewide as part of the Get to Know Your Status campaign. Since that time, newly reported HIV cases have decreased each year until 2007. Since then, reporting changes have caused fluctuations in HIV cases. For example, enhanced reporting laws were implemented in Nov. 2006, and the expansion of electronic lab reporting in 2007 led to an artificial peak in HIV cases in 2007 and 2008 followed by an artificial decrease in 2009 and an expected approach to leveling in 2010.

Cases reported in correctional facilities are excluded from the county totals, but are included in the state total.

Rates calculated using July 1 population estimates from the Office of the Governor.

Compiled by: Health Council of Southeast Florida, 2011

AIDS Incidence

Table 83 shows the rate of new AIDS cases per 100,000 people in Okeechobee County and Florida in 2008, 2009 and 2010. The number of events in Okeechobee is small, ranging from 2-5 cases per year in the time period shown.

Table 83: AIDS Incidence, Okeechobee, Florida, 2008, 2009, 2010

	Number of Reported New AIDS Cases			Rate Per 100,000		
	2008	2009	2010	2008	2009	2010
Florida	4,701	4,429	3,461	25	23.5	18.4
Okeechobee	4	2	5	10	5	12.6

Data Source: FloridaCHARTS, Florida Department of Health, Bureau of HIV/AIDS, 2010

Data Note(s): Generally, AIDS cases remained fairly stable in the early 2000s, with an increase in 2004 due to increased CD4 testing statewide. Electronic laboratory reporting delays in late 2007 decreased cases in that year, while contributing to a spike in 2008. The expansion of electronic lab reporting increased the timeliness of reporting, which further contributed to the artificial spike in 2008 followed by the artificial dip in 2009 & 2010.

Cases reported in correctional facilities are excluded from the county totals, but are included in the state total.

Rates calculated using July 1 population estimates from the Office of the Governor.

Compiled by: Health Council of Southeast Florida, 2011

SEXUALLY TRANSMITTED INFECTIONS/ DISEASES

Sexually transmitted infection/disease data are important for communities because the burden of sexually transmitted diseases is borne by society as a whole. Chlamydia, in particular, is the most common bacterial STI in North America and is one of the major causes of tubal infertility, ectopic pregnancy, pelvic inflammatory disease, and chronic pelvic pain. Additionally, STIs in general, are associated with significantly increased risk of morbidity and mortality, including increased risk of cervical cancer, pelvic inflammatory disease, involuntary infertility, and premature death.¹¹

As noted by Table 84, the total gonorrhea, chlamydia & infectious syphilis rate per 100,000 people for Okeechobee County has nearly doubled since 2001. Increases are also seen in the state of Florida over the same time period.

Table 84: Total Gonorrhea, Chlamydia & Infectious Syphilis, Okeechobee, Florida 2001-2010

	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010
	Counts									
Florida	59,640	64,023	62,014	61,862	64,321	73,608	82,011	95,011	94,837	96,061
Okeechobee	98	98	95	131	140	127	148	174	218	209
	Rate Per 100,000									
Florida	363.4	381.7	361.3	351.2	357	399.2	437.8	505.1	503.9	511.3
Okeechobee	270.6	266.9	254.2	343.4	370.8	327.1	379.1	434	543.2	525.7

Data Source: FloridaCHARTS, Florida Department of Health, Bureau of STD Prevention & Control, 2010

Rates calculated using July 1 population estimates from the Office of the Governor.

Compiled by: Health Council of Southeast Florida, 2011

¹¹ University of Wisconsin Population Health Institute. (2010). County Health Rankings 2010; retrieved from www.countyhealthrankings.org/health-factors/unsafe-sex

MORTALITY

LEADING CAUSES OF DEATH

Table 85 shows number of total deaths by all causes from 2007 to 2009. Heart disease was the leading cause for all three years in both Okeechobee County and in Florida, followed by cancer, chronic lower respiratory disease and unintentional injuries.

Table 85: Leading Causes of Death, Okeechobee, 2007, 2008, 2009

	Deaths	Percent of Total Deaths	Deaths	Percent of Total Deaths	Deaths	Percent of Total Deaths
	2007		2008		2009	
ALL CAUSES	402	100	404	100	377	100
HEART DISEASE	104	25.9	105	26	100	26.5
CANCER	87	21.6	93	23	88	23.3
CHRONIC LOWER RESPIRATORY DISEASE	41	10.2	37	9.2	35	9.3
UNINTENTIONAL INJURIES	40	10	30	7.4	33	8.8
STROKE	12	3	18	4.5	13	3.4
ALZHEIMER'S DISEASE	8	2	11	2.7	10	2.7
SUICIDE	7	1.7	8	2	7	1.9
DIABETES MELLITUS	12	3	16	4	6	1.6
PNEUMONIA/INFLUENZA	8	2	6	1.5	5	1.3
KIDNEY DISEASE	1	0.2	7	1.7	5	1.3
SEPTICEMIA	2	0.5	6	1.5	5	1.3
CHRONIC LIVER DISEASE & CIRRHOSIS	10	2.5	8	2	4	1.1
HOMICIDE	1	0.2	0	0	4	1.1
BENIGN NEOPLASM	4	1	1	0.2	2	0.5
AIDS/HIV	2	0.5	2	0.5	1	0.3
PARKINSON'S DISEASE	1	0.2	2	0.5	1	0.3
PERINATAL CONDITIONS	2	0.5	2	0.5	1	0.3

Source: FloridaCHARTS, Florida Department of Health, Office of Health Statistics and Assessment, 850-245-4009

* Data arranged according to leading cause of death (high to low) for 2009

Compiled by: Heath Council of Southeast Florida

Leading Cause of Death by Age

Table 86 shows the major causes of death in Okeechobee County organized by age group. The majority of causes affected the older population; however, unintentional injuries, suicide, homicide and influenza/pneumonia were causes of death in the younger age groups.

Table 86: Leading Causes Death, Categorized by Age*, Okeechobee, 2009

Cause of Death	Total	<1	1-4	5-9	10-14	15-19	20-24	25-34	35-44	45-54	55-64	65-74	75-84	85 +	Unknown
All Causes	377	2	2	0	0	3	6	7	20	26	48	81	107	75	0
Heart Diseases	100	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	3	6	9	24	21	37	0
Malignant Neoplasms	88	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	4	3	14	28	28	10	0
Chronic Lower Respiratory Diseases	35	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	7	11	9	7	0
Unintentional Injury	33	0	1	0	0	2	5	3	6	6	4	1	4	1	0
Cerebrovascular Diseases	13	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	4	4	3	0
Alzheimer's Disease	10	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	4	6	0
Suicide	7	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	3	0	1	1	1	0	0
Diabetes Mellitus	6	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	1	1	3	0	0
Septicemia	5	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	2	1	0	0
Influenza & Pneumonia	5	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	1	0	0	2	0	0
Nephritis, Nephrotic Syndrome & Nephrosis	5	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	4	0	0
Chronic Liver Diseases & Cirrhosis	4	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	1	1	0	0
Homicide	4	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	2	0	0	0	0	0
In Situ, Benign, Uncert/Unk Behavior Neoplasms	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	1	0	0
Human Immunodeficiency Virus	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0
Parkinson's Disease	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0
Perinatal Period Conditions	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

Data Source: Florida Department of Health, Office of Vital Statistics, 2009

*Leading causes of death for all ages in county, detailed by age group

Compiled by: Health Council of Southeast Florida, 2011

Leading Cause of Death by Race

Table 87 shows mortality counts organized by race, gender and ethnicity and death rates per 100,000 for race and gender in Okeechobee County in 2009. The rate of death was higher in White individuals (769.4 per 100,000) than other races (683.5 per 100,000) and the rate of death was higher in men (831.3 per 100,000) than in women (677.3 per 100,000).

Table 87: Death Counts and Rate per 100,000 from all Causes, Age-adjusted, by Race, by Gender, by Ethnicity Okeechobee, 2009

Cause of Death	Total	White	Black & Other	Male	Female	Hispanic	Non-Hispanic
All Causes	377	357	20	202	175	9	368
Rate per 100,000							
		769.4	683.5	831.3	677.3		

Heart Disease Deaths

Table 88 shows deaths due to heart disease and related conditions in Okeechobee in 2009 by race and gender. More males died from acute myocardial infarction (heart attack) than females.

Table 88: Okeechobee County, Mortality by Heart Disease, by Race and by Gender, 2009

Cause of Death	Total	White	Black	Other	Male	Female	Hispanic	Non-Hispanic
Major Cardiovascular Diseases	124	119	5	0	60	64	3	121
Heart Diseases	100	95	5	0	49	51	2	98
Acute Rheum Fever & Chronic Rheum Heart Disease	1	1	0	0	0	1	0	1
Hypertensive Heart Disease	3	3	0	0	1	2	0	3
Ischemic Heart Diseases	80	76	4	0	43	37	1	79
Acute Myocardial Infarction	26	26	0	0	16	10	0	26
Other Acute Ischemic Heart Disease	1	1	0	0	0	1	0	1
Other Forms of Chronic Ischemic Heart Disease	53	49	4	0	27	26	1	52
.Atherosclerotic Cardiovascular Disease	5	5	0	0	4	1	1	4
.All Other Chronic Ischemic Heart Disease	48	44	4	0	23	25	0	48
Other Heart Diseases	16	15	1	0	5	11	1	15
Heart Failure	2	1	1	0	0	2	0	2
Other Forms Heart Disease	14	14	0	0	5	9	1	13
Essen Hypertension & Hypertensive Renal Disease	4	4	0	0	2	2	0	4

Cerebrovascular Diseases	13	13	0	0	6	7	0	13
Atherosclerosis	1	1	0	0	1	0	0	1
Other Disease of Circulatory System	6	6	0	0	2	4	1	5
Aortic Aneurysm & Dissection	3	3	0	0	2	1	0	3
Other Arteries, Arterioles, Capillaries Disease	3	3	0	0	0	3	1	2

Source: FloridaCHARTS, 2009
 Compiled by: Health Council of Southeast Florida, 2011

Figure 18 shows coronary heart disease deaths for Florida’s counties in 2009. The rate in Okeechobee County was 149.7 per 100,000, placing it in the highest death rate category.

Figure 18:

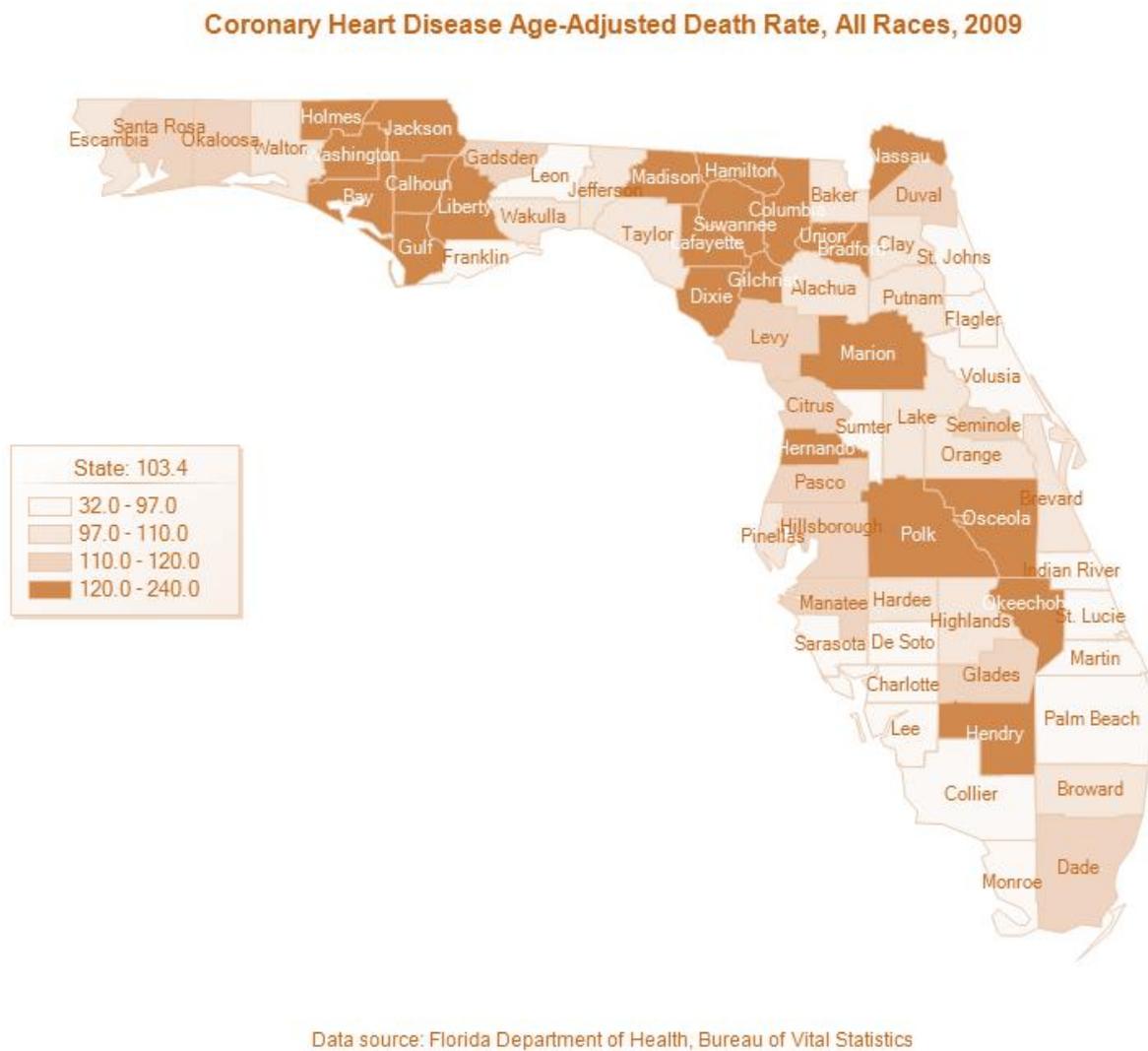


Table 89 shows that out of 67 counties in the state of Florida, Okeechobee County has the 10th highest age-adjusted death rate due to coronary heart disease in 2009. The state of Florida has a rate of 103.4 per 100,000 individuals in the population.

Table 89: Coronary Heart Disease Age-Adjusted Death Rate, by County, Florida, 2009

County	Count	Rate	County	Count	Rate
Florida	28,615	103.4	Glades	17	113.3
Holmes	63	236.7	Okaloosa	241	112.4
Union	25	220.6	Taylor	30	109.8
Dixie	50	202.6	Baker	27	109.7
Hendry	60	172.9	Pinellas	1,913	109.7
Washington	56	163.6	Escambia	420	107.0
Calhoun	30	163.5	Orange	956	106.9
Hamilton	23	158.2	Wakulla	33	105.6
Madison	41	155.7	Lake	585	103.3
Lafayette	13	154.0	Hardee	31	102.7
Okeechobee	80	149.7	Brevard	965	102.4
Bradford	48	142.1	Putnam	111	102.1
Hernando	510	137.3	Broward	2,443	102.0
Suwannee	82	131.3	Alachua	228	100.4
Columbia	108	128.6	Clay	182	100.2
Liberty	10	128.6	Highlands	264	100.0
Jackson	88	125.0	Jefferson	19	98.1
Polk	1,064	124.9	Walton	81	97.3
Gilchrist	27	124.7	St. Lucie	457	96.7
Marion	784	124.7	Volusia	792	90.8
Nassau	107	123.9	Palm Beach	2,302	89.8
Osceola	294	121.9	Lee	1,049	88.8
Bay	248	120.9	Leon	196	87.4
Gulf	27	120.8	Indian River	289	86.6
Dade	3,481	118.7	De Soto	40	86.5
Hillsborough	1,512	118.4	Charlotte	362	86.3
Santa Rosa	169	117.7	Sumter	185	84.7
Gadsden	65	116.1	Monroe	82	75.4
Levy	70	115.9	Sarasota	767	72.8
Pasco	954	115.8	Martin	216	65.7
Citrus	408	115.4	Collier	400	64.5
Duval	1,015	114.4	St. Johns	159	64.5
Seminole	467	114.4	Flagler	106	60.5
Manatee	675	113.8	Franklin	6	32.2

Data Source: FloridaCHARTS, 2009
 Compiled by: Health Council of Southeast Florida, 2011

Cancer Deaths

In the U.S. cancer is the second leading cause of death, responsible for 1 in 4 deaths. About 1.5 million new cancer cases were expected to be diagnosed in 2010. About 569,000 Americans were expected to die of cancer in 2010.¹²

Table 90 shows that the age-adjusted death rate due to cancer in Okeechobee County is higher than that of the state of Florida. The cancer death rate averaged 177.2 per 100,000 in the county and 160.7 in Florida over the three year period shown.

Table 90: Age-Adjusted Cancer Death Rate, Okeechobee, Florida, 2007, 2008, 2009

	Number of Deaths			Age-Adjusted Death Rate		
	2007	2008	2009	2007	2008	2009
Florida	39,790	40,549	40,817	160.8	161.2	160.1
Okeechobee	87	93	88	179	181	171.6

Data Source: FloridaCHARTS, Florida Department of Health, Bureau of Vital Statistics, 2009

Table 91 shows deaths due to cancer, by cancer type, in 2009 in Okeechobee County. Trachea, bronchus and lung cancer accounted for five times as many deaths as the next two leading causes: colon, rectum and anus cancer and lymphoid, hematopoietic and related tissue cancers. More males died of colon, rectum and anus cancer than did females.

Table 91: Okeechobee County Cancer Mortality, By Race and Gender, 2009

Cause of Death	Total	White	Black	Other	Male	Female	Hispanic	Non-Hispanic
Death by Cancer Types								
Lip, Oral Cavity, Pharynx Cancer	3	3	0	0	2	1	0	3
Esophagus Cancer	1	1	0	0	1	0	0	1
Stomach Cancer	2	1	1	0	1	1	0	2
Colon, Rectum & Anus Cancer	7	7	0	0	6	1	0	7
Liver & Intrahepatic Bile Ducts Cancer	4	4	0	0	2	2	0	4
Larynx Cancer	1	1	0	0	1	0	0	1
Trachea, Bronchus & Lung Cancer	36	35	1	0	17	19	0	36
Skin Cancer	3	3	0	0	3	0	0	3
Breast Cancer	5	4	1	0	0	5	1	4
Cervical Cancer	1	1	0	0	0	1	0	1

¹² American Cancer Society. (2009) Cancer Facts & Figures 2009. American Cancer Society

Ovarian Cancer	1	1	0	0	0	1	0	1
Prostate Cancer	2	1	1	0	2	0	0	2
Kidney & Renal Pelvis Cancer	3	3	0	0	2	1	0	3
Bladder Cancer	2	2	0	0	1	1	0	2
Meninges, Brain, & Other Part Cen Nerv Sys Cancer	1	1	0	0	1	0	1	0
Lymphoid, Hematopoietic and Related Tissue	7	6	1	0	4	3	0	7
Non-Hodgkin's Lymphoma	4	4	0	0	3	1	0	4
Leukemia	2	2	0	0	0	2	0	2
Multiple Myeloma & Immunoprolifera Neoplasm	1	0	1	0	1	0	0	1
All Other & Unspecified	9	9	0	0	4	5	0	9
In Situ, Benign, Uncert/Unk Behavior Neoplasms	2	2	0	0	2	0	0	2

Source: www.FloridaCharts.com

Deaths Due to AIDS

HIV/AIDS is among the leading causes of death worldwide. In the United States, more than 1 million people are currently living with HIV/AIDS. Since the U.S. epidemic began, an estimated 617,025 people have died of AIDS.¹³

Table 92 shows deaths due to HIV/AIDS in Okeechobee and Florida in the years 2007 -2009. Death due to HIV/AIDS is rare in Okeechobee County with between 1-2 deaths per year in the time period shown. The rate in Florida ranged from 6.5-8.1 per 100,000, considerably more than in Okeechobee.

Table 92: Total Deaths for HIV/AIDS, Okeechobee, Florida, 2007, 2008, 2009

	Number of Deaths			Rate Per 100,000		
	2007	2008	2009	2007	2008	2009
Florida	1,526	1,412	1,232	8.1	7.5	6.5
Okeechobee	2	2	1	5.1	5	2.5

Data Source: FloridaCHARTS, Florida Department of Health, Bureau of Vital Statistics
 Data Note(s): ICD-10 Code(s): B20-B24
 Rates calculated using July 1 population estimates from the Office of the Governor.
 Compiled by: Health Council of Southeast Florida, 2011

¹³ www.niaid.nih.gov/topics/HIVAIDS/Understanding/Pages/quickFacts.aspx

Unintentional Injury Deaths

According to the National Center for Health Statistics, a branch of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), unintentional injuries are the fifth leading cause of death overall, and the leading cause of death for individuals in the 1-4, 5-14, 15-24 and 25-44 age groups.¹⁴

As seen in Table 93, the death rate due to unintentional injury in Okeechobee County is higher than that of the state of Florida in all the years shown. The rate was 52.9 per 100,000 higher in 2007, the 29.4 higher in 2008 and 38.9 higher in 2009.

Table 93: Unintentional Injury (Accident) Age-Adjusted Death Rate, Okeechobee, Florida, 2007, 2008, 2009

	Number of Deaths			Age-Adjusted Death Rate		
	2007	2008	2009	2007	2008	2009
Florida	9,020	8,918	8,779	45.3	44.2	42.6
Okeechobee	40	30	33	98.2	73.6	81.5

Data Source: FloridaCHARTS, Florida Department of Health, Bureau of Vital Statistics, 2009

Data Note(s): ICD-10 Code(s): V01-X59, Y85-Y86.

Age-adjusted rates calculated using 2000 Standard Population Proportion. Population estimates from July 1 of the specified year and provided by the Office of the Governor.

Compiled by: Health Council of Southeast Florida, 2011

¹⁴ Kochanek KD, Xu JQ, Murphy SL, et al. Deaths: Preliminary data for 2009. National vital statistics reports; vol 59 no 4. Hyattsville, MD: National Center for Health Statistics. 2011.

HEALTH RESOURCE AVAILABILITY AND ACCESS

LICENSED FACILITY OVERVIEW

Hospitals

Raulerson Hospital is the only general acute care facility located in Okeechobee. The 100-bed healthcare facility offers a wide range of healthcare services including: cardiopulmonary services, radiology diagnostic imaging, emergency care, a range of other outpatient services, physical medicine and rehabilitation and a full range of inpatient and outpatient surgical services.

Table 94: Licensed Hospitals, Okeechobee County

Name	Address	City	St	Phone
RAULERSON HOSPITAL	1796 HWY 441 NORTH	OKEECHOBEE	FL	(863) 824-2760

Source: Florida Health Finder

Compiled: Health Council of Southeast Florida, 2011

Table 95 shows the total number of hospital beds and the number of hospital beds per 100,000 in the population. The rates in both areas have remained relatively unchanged over the three year period of 2008-2010 however; Okeechobee's rate of approximately 2.5 beds per 1,000 individuals is lower than Florida's rate of approximately 3.2 beds.

Table 95: Total Hospital Beds, Okeechobee, Florida, 2008, 2009, 2010

County	Number of Beds			Rate Per 100,000		
	2008	2009	2010	2008	2009	2010
Florida	59,614	60,059	60,241	316.9	319.1	320.6
Okeechobee	100	100	100	249.5	249.2	251.5

Data Source: FloridaCHARTS, Florida Agency for Health Care Administration (AHCA), Certificate of Need Office, 2010

Rates calculated using July 1 population estimates from the Office of the Governor.

Compiled by: Health Council of Southeast Florida, 2011

Nursing Homes

Okeechobee County has one licensed nursing home. Okeechobee Healthcare Facility was established in 1984. This nursing home facility has 180 licensed beds and serves senior citizens and offers rehabilitative and hospice services.

Table 96: Licensed Nursing Homes in Okeechobee County

Name	Street Address	Street City	Phone
OKEECHOBEE HEALTH CARE FACILITY	1646 HIGHWAY 441 N	OKEECHOBEE	(863) 763-2226

Source: Florida Health Finder

Compiled by: Health Council of Southeast Florida

Home Health Agencies

Table 97 lists licensed home health agencies in Okeechobee County. Home health agencies typically evaluate a patient's condition and assess home care needs. They may also determine whether other services such as therapy and personal care are necessary, (e.g., physical speech, occupational, respiratory and IV therapy, home health aides, homemaker and companion services, home medical equipment, nutritional guidance, etc.)

Table 97: Licensed Home Health Agencies, Okeechobee County

Name	Address	City	Phone
BIG LAKE HOME HEALTH SERVICES OF GLADE COUNTY INC.	1124 BUCK HEAD RIDGE RD	OKEECHOBEE	(863) 763-0804
BIG LAKE HOME HEALTH SERVICES	111 NE 11TH STREET	OKEECHOBEE	(863) 467-9997
NURSE ON CALL OF SOUTH FLORIDA	413 S PARROTT AVE UNIT 6 & 7	OKEECHOBEE	(863) 357-0024
VISITING NURSE ASSOCIATION OF FLORIDA INC.	208 SE PARK ST	OKEECHOBEE	(863) 357-2197

Source: Florida Health Finder
Compiled by: Health Council of Southeast Florida, 2011

AHCA Licensed Facilities "All Types"

Table 98 provides a list of health care and medical facilities located in the county. For more information about each of their services, please contact individual agencies.

Table 98: Licensed Facilities "All Types", Okeechobee County

Facility Name	Address	City
ALL ABOUT YOU CAREGIVERS INC	605 W S PARK STREET, SU 215	OKEECHOBEE
ALL ABOUT YOU CAREGIVERS INC.	206 SW 3RD STREET	OKEECHOBEE
BIG LAKE HOME HEALTH SERVICES OF GLADE COUNTY	1124 BUCK HEAD RIDGE RD	OKEECHOBEE
BIG LAKE HOME HEALTH SERVICES INC.	111 NE 11TH STREET	OKEECHOBEE
DR PETER W STEPHENS INC	375 SW 32ND STREET	OKEECHOBEE
FLORIDA COMMUNITY HEALTH CENTERS LAKESHORE	1100 N PARROT AVE	OKEECHOBEE
GATEWAY MEDICAL GROUP LLC	111 NE 19TH DRIVE	OKEECHOBEE
GRAND OAKS	203 SE 2ND ST	OKEECHOBEE
HOSPICE OF OKEECHOBEE	411 SE 4TH STREET	OKEECHOBEE
LAKESHORE UROLOGY	215 NE 19 DR	OKEECHOBEE
LEGACY BEHAVIORAL HEALTH CENTER INC	304 NW 5TH ST PLAZA 300	OKEECHOBEE
LINCARE INC	107 SW 17TH ST STE B & C	OKEECHOBEE
MEDMARK SERVICES INC	1201 NORTH PARROT AVE	OKEECHOBEE

METCARE OF OKEECHOBEE	208 NE 19TH DR	OKEECHOBEE
MUHAMMAD NOORUDDIN PT	1065 SE 23RD STREET	OKEECHOBEE
NEW AMERICAN PHYSICAL THERAPY INC	1204 N PARROTT AVE	OKEECHOBEE
NEW AMERICAN PHYSICAL THERAPY INC.	1204 NORTH PARROTT AVENUE	OKEECHOBEE
NURSE ON CALL OF SOUTH FLORIDA INC	413 S PARROTT AVE UNIT 6 & 7	OKEECHOBEE
OKEECHOBEE CANCER CENTER	301 NE 19TH DRIVE	OKEECHOBEE
OKEECHOBEE HEALTH CARE FACILITY	1646 HIGHWAY 441 N	OKEECHOBEE
OPEN MRI OF OKEECHOBEE	115 NE 3RD STREET	OKEECHOBEE
PLATT CHIROPRACTIC CLINIC PA	280 SW 32ND STREET	OKEECHOBEE
PROFESSIONAL RESPIRATORY HOME CARE	1020 N PARROTT AVE	OKEECHOBEE
RADIANT DEVELOPMENT CENTER LLC	1702 NE 3RD STREET	OKEECHOBEE
RAULERSON HOSPITAL	1796 HWY 441 NORTH	OKEECHOBEE
RAULERSON HOSPITAL CLINICAL LAB	1796 HWY 441 N	OKEECHOBEE
RENAL CARE CENTER OF OKEECHOBEE	201 SW 16TH ST	OKEECHOBEE
SHIRLEY'S PERSONAL CARE SERVICES OF OKEECHOBEE	200 SE 3RD ST	OKEECHOBEE
STEPHENS CHIROPRACTIC OFFICE	375 SW 32ND STREET	OKEECHOBEE
SUNCOAST MEDICAL EQUIPMENT	412 NE PARK ST	OKEECHOBEE
SURGERY CENTER OF OKEECHOBEE INC	1655 HIGHWAY 441 NORTH	OKEECHOBEE
THE CHIROPRACTIC GROUP LLC	1140 SOUTH PARROTT AVE	OKEECHOBEE
THE HERITAGE	608 NE 2ND AVENUE	OKEECHOBEE
TIM IOANNIDES MD LLC	1713 US HWY 441 N	OKEECHOBEE
TOTAL FITNESS	332 SW 32ND STREET	OKEECHOBEE
VISITING NURSE ASSOCIATION OF FLORIDA INC.	208 SE PARK ST	OKEECHOBEE
WATERS EDGE DERMATOLOGY	301 NE 19TH DR	OKEECHOBEE

Compiled by: Health Council of Southeast Florida, 2011

HEALTH CARE PROVIDER SUPPLY

Physicians

As see in Table 99, there were 35 physicians for Okeechobee County in fiscal year 2009-10. The rate of physicians decreased by 25 per 100,000 population between fiscal years 2008 and 2009. The rate in Florida stayed stable and the number of physicians increased in the time period shown.

Table 99: Total Licensed Physicians (Fiscal Year), Okeechobee, Florida, 2008-09, 2009-2010

	Number of Physicians			Rate Per 100,000		
	FY 2008-09	FY 2009-10	FY 2010-11	FY 2008-09	FY 2009-10	FY 2010-11
Florida	56,177	56,561	-	299	301	-
Okeechobee	45	35	-	112	87	-

Data Source: FloridaCHARTS, Florida Department of Health, Division of Medical Quality Assurance
 Rates calculated using July 1 population estimates from the Office of the Governor.

Nurses

As of October 2011, there are currently 276 licensed Registered Nurses an ‘address of record’ in Okeechobee County according the Florida Department of Health license verification database.

Dentists

As seen in Table 100, the rate of licensed dentists per 100,000 individuals has remained relatively constant during the time period shown in Okeechobee County and in Florida. However, the rate is considerably higher in Florida with over double the number of dentists per 100,000.

Table 100: Total Licensed Dentists (Fiscal Year), Okeechobee, Florida

County	Average Number of Dentists			Rate Per 100,000		
	2005-07	2006-08	2007-09	2005-07	2006-08	2007-09
Florida	11350	11588	11612	61.7	62.1	61.8
Okeechobee	11	11	11	27.7	28.8	26.8

Data Source: FloridaCHARTS, Florida Department of Health, Division of Medical Quality Assurance, 2009
 Compiled by: Health Council of Southeast Florida, 2011

FEDERAL HEALTH PROFESSIONAL SHORTAGE AREA (HPSA)

Health Professional Shortage Areas (HPSAs) are areas, populations or institutions designated by the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) to have shortages of primary medical care, dental or mental health providers. HPSA designations are based on several criteria including: a rational need for services, a provider to population ratio that falls below a set criteria, and an occurrence of current health providers being over-utilized, inaccessible or excessively distant.

As of September 21, 2011, across the country, there were:

- **6,433 Primary Care HPSAs** with 66.9 million people living in them. It would take 17,798 practitioners to meet their need for primary care providers (a population to practitioner ratio of 2,000:1).
- **4,675 Dental HPSAs** with 52.4 million people living in them. It would take 10,242 practitioners to meet their need for dental providers (a population to practitioner ratio of 3,000:1).
- **3,795 Mental Health HPSAs** with 95.3 million people living in them. It would take 6,252 practitioners to meet their need for mental health providers (a population to practitioner ratio of 10,000:1).¹⁵

Primary Care – Okeechobee

Okeechobee County as a whole and Okeechobee Correctional Institution are both designated HPSAs in primary care, meaning there is a recognized shortage of primary medical care providers in these areas.

Table 101: Health Professional Shortage Area, Primary Medical Care, Okeechobee, as of September 2011

HPSA Name	ID	Type	FTE	# Short	Score
Okeechobee	112093	Single County	9	1	13
Okeechobee Correctional Institution	11299912A7	Correctional Facility	1	1	9

Source: HRSA, 2011

Compiled by: Health Council of Southeast Florida, 2011

¹⁵ Source: U.S. Department of Health & Human Services; Health Resource and Services Administration; <http://datawarehouse.hrsa.gov/GeoAdvisor/shortagedesignationAdvisor.aspx>

Dental Care – Okeechobee

Okeechobee County as a whole and the population of low income/migrant farmworkers are designated HPSAs in dental care, meaning there is a recognized shortage of dental care providers in these populations.

Table 102: Health Professional Shortage Area, Dental Care, Okeechobee, September 2011

HPSA Name	ID	Type	FTE	# Short	Score
Low Income/Migrant Farmworker - Okeechobee	612999120H	Population Group	0	4	17
Okeechobee		Single County			

Source: HRSA, 2011
Compiled by: Health Council of Southeast Florida, 2011

In Okeechobee County as a whole, the percent of individuals living in poverty with access to dental care averaged 45.8% between 2008 and 2010, higher than the percentage in Florida which averaged 31.5%.

Table 103: Access to Dental Care by Low Income Persons, Okeechobee, Florida, 2008, 2009, 2010

	Number of Persons w/ Dental Access			Number of Population Below Poverty			Rate Percent		
	2008	2009	2010	2008	2009	2010	2008	2009	2010
Florida	675,575	689,062	855,659	2,353,880	2,354,736	2,350,957	28.7%	29.3	36.4
Okeechobee	2,997	3,003	2,818	6,425	6,432	6,371	46.6	46.7	44.2

Data Source: FloridaCHARTS, Florida Department of Health, Public Health Dental Program, 2010
Rates calculated using July 1 population estimates from the Office of the Governor.
Compiled by: Health Council of Southeast Florida, 2011

Mental Health Care – Okeechobee

Okeechobee County as a whole and the population of low income/migrant farmworkers are designated HPSAs for mental health care, meaning there is a recognized shortage of mental health care providers in these populations.

Table 104: Designated Health Professional Shortage Areas, Mental Health Care, Okeechobee, September 2011

HPSA Name	ID	Type	FTE	# Short	Score
Low Income/Migrant Farmworker – Okeechobee	7129991266	Population Group	1	0	17
Okeechobee		Single County			

Source: HRSA, 2011
Compiled by: Health Council of Southeast Florida, 2011

FEDERAL MEDICALLY UNDERSERVED AREAS/POPULATIONS

Medically Underserved Areas (MUAs)/Populations (MUPs) are designated by Health Resources Service Administration (HRSA) as areas or populations having: too few primary care providers, high infant mortality, high poverty and/or high elderly population. An Index of Medical Underservice (IMU) uses weighted values for different factors to determine the score. Medically Underserved Populations (MUPs) are comprised of groups of individuals who face economic, cultural or linguistic barriers to health care. Okeechobee County does have one Medically Underserved Population (MUP), low-income migrant farmworkers. This population has been designated since September of 2001.

Table 105: Medically Underserved Areas and Populations in Okeechobee as of September 2011

Name	ID#	Type	Score	Designation Date	Update Date
Low-Income/Mfw Of Okeechobee County	537	MUP	57.2	9/26/2001	

Source: HRSA, 2011
Compiled by: Health Council of Southeast Florida, 2011

HEALTH INSURANCE

Table 106 shows the 2010 managed care health insurance enrollment in Okeechobee County and Florida organized by type of insurance.

Table 106: Managed Care Insurance Enrollment Okeechobee, Florida, 2010

Insurance Type:	Okeechobee	Florida
Small Group	95	332,835
Large Group	444	941,040
Individual	23	103,802
Conversion	6	5,011
Healthy Kids	707	224,808
Medicaid	27	1,120,766
Medicare	1,420	775,882
Federal Employees	3	18,708

Florida Office of Insurance Regulation, 2010
Data Source: NAIC DSSPROD and FLOIR IDCS schema, 2010
Compiled by: Health Council of Southeast Florida, 2011

Table 107 shows the 2010 managed care quarterly enrollment by type of health care coverage and carrier.

Table 107: Managed Care Insurance Enrollment by Carrier , Okeechobee, Florida, 2010

Carriers:	Okeechobee						Florida					
	Small Group	Large Group	Healthy Kids	Medicaid	Medicare	Federal Employee	Small Group	Large Group	Healthy Kids	Medicaid	Medicare	Federal Employee
Aetna Health, Inc.	85	212	0	0	0	0	117,090	198,300	0	0	3,412	0
Care Plus Health Plans	0	0	0	0	41	0	0	0	0	0	64,731	0
Cigna Healthcare	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	2,550	0	0	0	0
Health Options	2	53	1	0	0	0	3,152	57,192	3,828	0	14,846	0
Humana Adv. Care	0	0	0	0	876	0	0	0	0	0	9,431	0
Humana Med. Plan	8	8	0	2	12	3	32,717	132,622	0	53,573	260,117	9,172
Quality Health Plans	0	0	0	0	488	0	0	0	0	0	16,175	0
United Health Care	0	169	706	25	0	0	1,317	99,831	31,810	115,268	21,593	0
Universal Health Care	0	0	0	0	3	0	0	0	0	56,882	18,424	0
Totals	95	444	707	27	1,420	3	154,276	490,495	35,638	225,723	408,729	9,172

Florida Office of Insurance Regulation
 Data Source: NAIC DSSPROD and FLOIR IDCS schema, 2010
 Compiled by: Health Council of Southeast Florida, 2011

Table 108 and Figures 19 and 20 detail health insurance coverage in Okeechobee and Florida. In 2010, health insurance coverage was 14.4% lower than in Florida as a whole. The lack of coverage was more prominent in males.

Table 108: Percentage of Adults with any type of Health Care Insurance, Okeechobee, Florida, 2010

Subject	Okeechobee	Florida
All	68.6%	83.0%
Men	64.7%	81.7%
Women	73.3%	84.2%

Source: 2010 Florida Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System Data Report, 2010
 Compiled by: Health Council of Southeast Florida, 2011

Figure 19

Okeechobee County Health Insurance Coverage, 2010

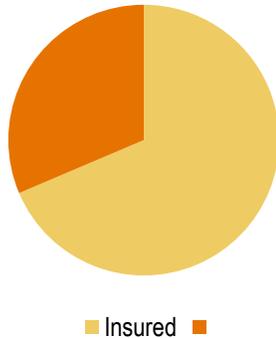
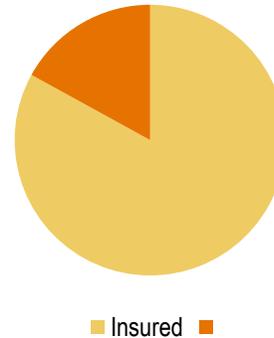


Figure 20

Florida Health Insurance Coverage, 2010



Uninsured

Table 109: Health Insurance Status, Okeechobee, Florida for Individuals <65 years, 2007

	Number Uninsured	Number in Demographic Group	Percent Uninsured	Number Insured	Percent Insured
Okeechobee	9,921	31,492	31.5%	21,571	68.5%
Florida	3,615,358	14,921,470	24.2%	11,306,112	75.8%

Data Source: SAHIE//State and County by Demographic and Income Characteristics, 2007

The number in a demographic group is the number of people in the poverty universe in that age, sex, and race/Hispanic origin group.

Compiled by: Health Council of Southeast Florida, 2011

Florida KidCare

Table 110 shows Florida KidCare coverage from 2008 to 2010. The percentage of children 0-4 years old covered in Okeechobee averaged 3.9% over the three years, in Florida coverage was 2.5%.

Table 110: Children < 5 covered by KidCare (Medikids + Medicaid), Okeechobee, Florida, 2008, 2009, 2010

	Number of Children covered by KidCare			Number of Population 0-4			Rate Percent		
	2008	2009	2010	2008	2009	2010	2008	2009	2010
Florida	29,901	23,873	33,495	1,137,643	1,136,803	1,136,370	2.6	2.1	2.9
Okeechobee	124	86	106	2,685	2,693	2,720	4.6	3.2	3.9

Data Source: FloridaCHARTS, Florida Agency for Health Care Administration (AHCA), 2010

Rates calculated using July 1 population estimates from the Office of the Governor.

Compiled by: Health Council of Southeast Florida, 2011

Medicaid

Medicaid is a federally and state funded health program in the United States that provides health services to low income individuals and families. Medicaid enrollment increased in both Okeechobee and in Florida over the 2008 to 2010 time period. In 2010 approximately 22% of Okeechobee's population was enrolled in Medicaid. In Florida as a whole, approximately 15.9% were enrolled.

Table 111: Median Monthly Medicaid Enrollment, Okeechobee, Florida, 2008, 2009, 2010

County	Number of Enrollment			Rate Per 100,000		
	2008	2009	2010	2008	2009	2010
Florida	2,637,603	2,678,520	2,995,439	14,020.7	14,233.1	15,942.7
Okeechobee	7,598	7,909	8,765	18,953.3	19,707	22,046.4

Data Source: FloridaCHARTS, Florida Department of Health, Office of Planning, Evaluation & Data Analysis, 2010

Rates calculated using July 1 population estimates from the Office of the Governor.

Compiled by: Health Council of Southeast Florida, 2011

SAFETY NET

The safety net providers reviewed in this report are non-profit, consumer- directed health care centers whose mission is to provide high quality, cost-effective and comprehensive primary and preventive care to medically underserved and uninsured people. These organizations serve low- income, working families, the uninsured and other high- risk populations, such as homeless, migrant farm workers, isolated rural families, poor women, children and the elderly.

These centers have chosen to focus on wellness and prevention, which are key to cost savings in health care system. Through innovative approaches and interventions in community outreach, patient education and prevention, these health centers also strive to teach their patients to be proactive and embrace a greater sense of responsibility for their own health.

Federally Qualified Health Centers (FQHC), Federally Qualified Health Center Look-Alikes (FQHC Look-Alikes) are supported by Health Resources and Service Administration (HRSA) and aim to provide primary health care services to underserved and vulnerable populations. The health centers serve populations with limited access to health care including: low income populations, the uninsured, individuals with language barriers, migrant and seasonal farmworkers, the homeless, and individuals living in public housing¹⁶ FQHCs and FQHC Look-Alikes may include community health centers, migrant health centers, Healthcare for the

¹⁶ www.bphc.hrsa.gov

Homeless programs, and public housing primary care programs. These organizations play an instrumental role in filling critical gaps in health care.

Federally Qualified Health Centers, Federally Qualified Health Center Look-Alikes

Table 112 shows FQHCs and FQHC Look-Alikes in Okeechobee County.

Table 112: Federally Qualified Health Centers and Look-Alike Sites in Okeechobee County

Facility	Location Type	BPHC Assigned Number	Setting
Dr. Fred Brown Children's Health Center 2015 Highway 441 N, Okeechobee, FL 34972	Permanent	BPS-H80-010370	Rural
Fred D. Brown Children's Health Center 2015 Highway 441 N, Okeechobee, FL 34972	Permanent	BPS-H80-008717	Rural
Lakeshore Medical Adults 1100 N Parrott Avenue, Okeechobee, FL 34972	Permanent	BPS-H80-010371	Rural
Lakeshore Pediatrics Annex 103 NE 19th Drive, Okeechobee, FL 34972	Permanent	BPS-H80-002096	Rural

Data Source: HRSA Data Warehouse, 2011
Compiled by: Health Council of Southeast Florida, 2011

The Okeechobee Health Department

The Okeechobee County Health Department operates a full service primary care clinic that residents of Okeechobee can access Monday through Friday. In addition to accepting Medicaid, the clinic also provides services on a sliding fee scale. The Health Department also provides school health services to approximately 10,000 students in Okeechobee County schools. Mothers who are pregnant can access an array of prenatal and postnatal services. The County Health Department plans to expand its clinical services to include family planning for teens. It also is working to provide health screenings in childcare facilities and public schools, increase the number of WIC services provided, and monitor the children’s immunization status.

A community’s traditional safety net might also include free clinics and mission-driven or faith-based initiatives. At this time, there are no additional formally-established entities.

COMMUNITY PERSPECTIVE

THE LOCAL PUBLIC HEALTH SYSTEM ASSESSMENT

Brief Background, Purpose and Methodology

The Local Public Health System Assessment (LPHSA) Instrument is one of the three assessment instruments within the Centers for Disease Control's (CDC) National Public Health Performance Standards Program (NPHPSP). The NPHPSP is a national partnership initiative that began in 1998 and includes the following partner organizations: the CDC, the American Public Health Association, National Association of County and City Health Officials, The Association of State and Territorial Health Officials, The National Association of Local Boards of Health, and the Public Health Foundation.

This assessment tool is based on the framework of the Ten Essential Public Health Services, which provide standards for quality in public health and it is identified by the CDC and other national public health entities, as being a necessary foundation for public health activity. The standards provide an optimal level of performance. Each performance standard represents the "gold standard" or "best-practice" in that area. The standards are intended to support a continual process of quality improvement for local health system partners.

The Ten Essential Public Health Services

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

The Health Council of Southeast Florida, convened a community meeting comprised of key leaders and stakeholders who represented a cross-section of the local public health care system and included public, private and voluntary entities. Participants included representatives from various types of organizations that contribute to the delivery of health services in Okeechobee County, including the local public health agency, community health centers, social service providers, the County School District, faith-based organizations, philanthropic, local governmental agencies, and many others. A total of twenty eight public health system partners came together to assess the performance of the Okeechobee public health system in comparison to a set of national standards.

Participants were provided with an overview of the Essential Public Health Services, the goals and the purpose for completing the assessment. The group discussed the assessment and answered questions in reference to each of the essential public health services and its respective model standards. The discussion was facilitated by staff of the Health Council of Southeast Florida. Participants were asked to answer specific questions related to each of the essential public health services and asked to come to a consensus regarding the level of performance for each of the services in the assessment instrument. The answers were recorded manually and subsequently submitted electronically to the CDC for evaluation and results. The results herein are presented in the aggregate. It is anticipated that this assessment will be conducted again on or before 2016 during which time these benchmarks for improvement provided here can be measured again to gauge progress in community health systems-wide.

Results and Data Limitations

Community health partners should understand the potential data limitations and how to appropriately interpret the assessment results to improve the public health system. The responses to the questions within the assessment are based upon processes that utilize input from diverse system participants with different experiences and perspectives. The gathering of information incorporates an element of subjectivity, which can be minimized through the use of particular assessment methods. Bear in mind that the assessment methods are not fully standardized and these differences may introduce an element of measurement error. Because of the inherent limitations noted, the results below and associated recommendations should be used for quality and performance improvement purposes. The data and results should not be interpreted to reflect the capacity or performance of any single agency or organization.

The following chart highlights the summary scores for each of the ten essential services. This visual provides a snapshot of the overall status of the assessment results. The information provided below presents detailed recommendations and opportunities provided by the CDC for the community's consideration as they move forward with health planning from a systems perspective.

Performance Assessment Instrument Results

How well did the system perform the ten Essential Public Health Services (EPHS)?

Table 1: Summary of performance scores by Essential Public Health Service (EPHS)

EPHS		Score
1	Monitor Health Status To Identify Community Health Problems	37
2	Diagnose And Investigate Health Problems and Health Hazards	96
3	Inform, Educate, And Empower People about Health Issues	52
4	Mobilize Community Partnerships to Identify and Solve Health Problems	44
5	Develop Policies and Plans that Support Individual and Community Health Efforts	49
6	Enforce Laws and Regulations that Protect Health and Ensure Safety	52
7	Link People to Needed Personal Health Services and Assure the Provision of Health Care when Otherwise Unavailable	58
8	Assure a Competent Public and Personal Health Care Workforce	44
9	Evaluate Effectiveness, Accessibility, and Quality of Personal and Population-Based Health Services	55
10	Research for New Insights and Innovative Solutions to Health Problems	23
Overall Performance Score		51

Table 1 (above) provides a quick overview of the system's performance in each of the 10 essential public health services (EPHS). Each EPHS score is a composite value determined by the scores given to those activities that contribute to each Essential Service. These scores range from a minimum value of 0% (no activity is performed pursuant to the standards) to a maximum of 100% (all activities associated with the standards are performed at optimal levels).

Figure 1: Summary of EPHS performance scores and overall score (with range)

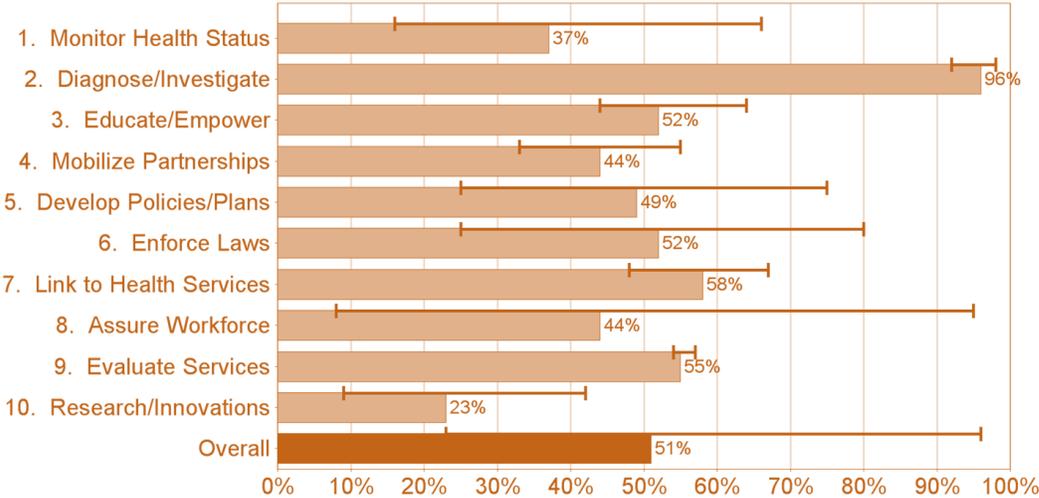


Figure 1 (above) displays performance scores for each essential service along with an overall score that indicates the average performance level across all 10 Essential Services. The range bars show the minimum and maximum values of responses within the Essential Service and an overall score.

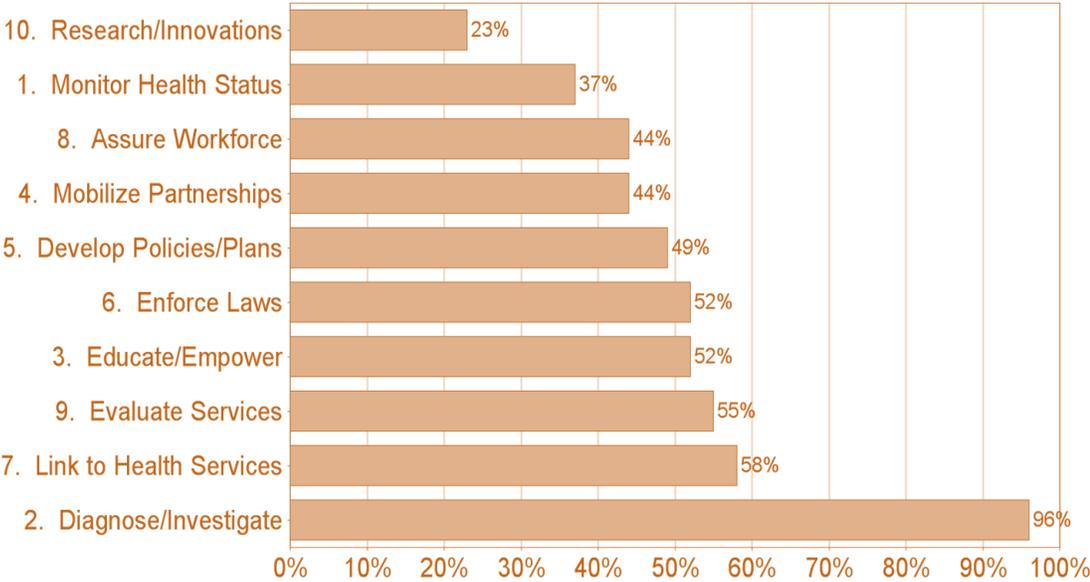


Figure 2 (above) displays each composite score from low to high, allowing for easy identification of service domains where performance is relatively strong or weak.

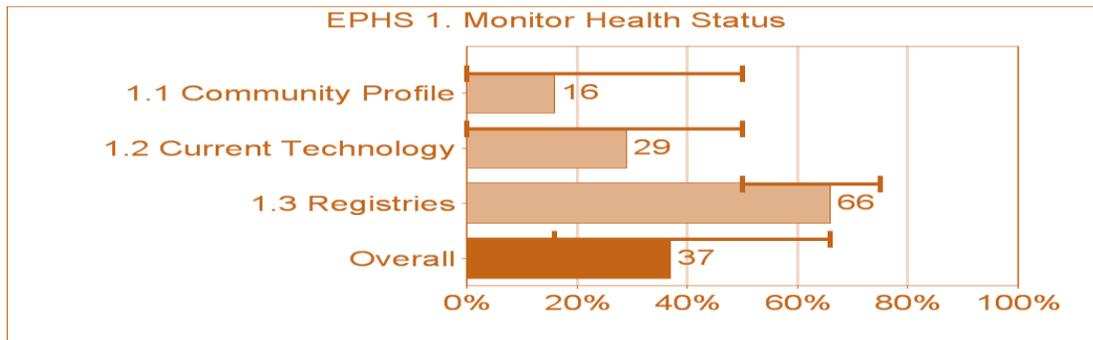
Score Detail Methodology

The NPHPSP assessment instruments are developed using the essential public health services (EPHS) as a framework. Within the local instrument, each EPHS includes between 2-4 model standards that describe the key aspects of an optimally performing public health system. Each model standard is followed by assessment questions that serve as measures of performance. Each site's responses to these questions should indicate how well the model standard, which portrays the highest level of performance or "gold standard", is being met.

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

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

Essential Public Service #1: Monitor Health of the Community



Best Practices in Essential Service #1 are identified as:

- Conducting a community health assessment to identify public health risks and inform public health planning.
- Reviewing available health data to identify the most prevalent health problems.
- Identifying groups of people who are at-risk for becoming ill for lack of health insurance and other social -economic situations.
- Developing a community health profile to educate community leaders about public health promotion.
- Establishing a website to provide health promotion and disease prevention information about persistent health problems within a community.

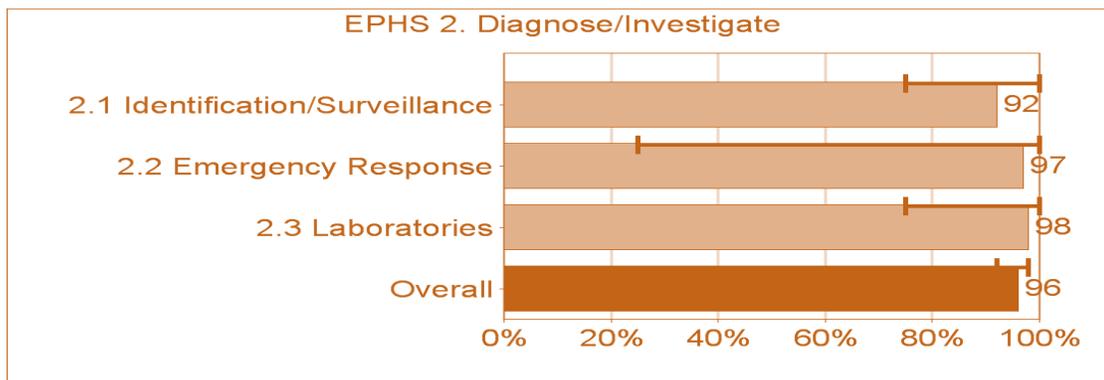
The Local Public Health System Strengths in this area were:

- Health system partners do a fair amount of monitoring the health status of Okeechobee County residents.
- Health system partners identify racial and ethnic minorities who are at a greater risk of needing and seeking health services.
- Health system partners maintain and regularly contribute to population health registries to report identified health events registries (e.g., disease and immunizations registries).

Overall, according to the LPHSA the community moderately meets this standard, but indicated the following areas as opportunities to improve:

- By conducting community health assessments to monitor progress towards health-related objectives.
- By increasing access to geo-coded health data, and uses computer-generated graphics to identify trends and compare data.
- By promoting community-wide use of the health assessment and community health profile data for systems-wide strategic planning for health improvement.

Essential Public Service #2: Diagnose & Investigate Health Problems and Hazards



Best Practices in Essential Service #2 are identified as:

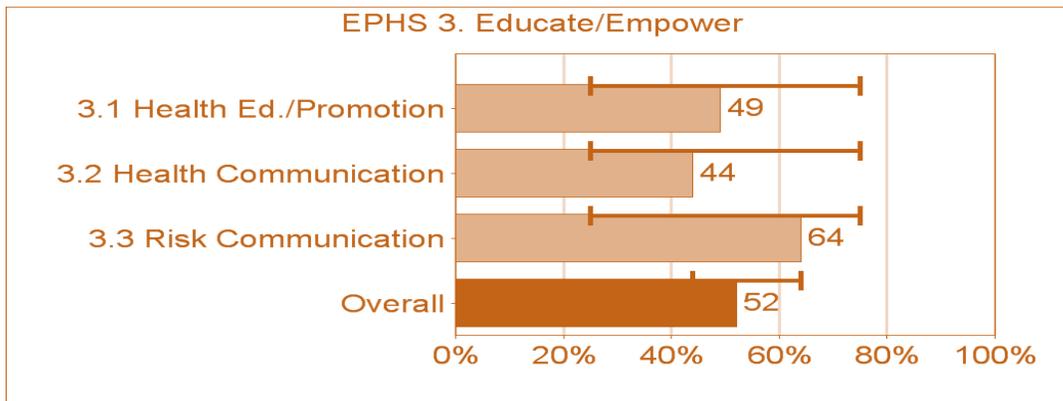
- Investigating food borne outbreaks.
- Communicating serious health threats to community in timely manner.
- Developing emergency response plans for public health emergencies.
- Responding to public health emergencies including disease outbreaks or terrorism.
- Ensuring access to laboratory with capacity for sampling.

The Local Public Health System Strengths in this area were:

- Health System partners are very active in identifying, diagnosing and analyzing health threats and emergencies.
- The agency partners are aware of and collaborate with local and national surveillance systems to identify and analyze public health threats.
- Health system partners collect reportable disease information and plan appropriately for public health emergencies and disasters.
- Health system partners are collaborative in its approach to investigating and responding to public health emergencies and disasters, and have procedures to alert communities about health threats and disease outbreaks.
- Health system partners have access to laboratory support for investigation of health threats, as well as epidemiologists and statisticians.

Overall, according to the LPHSA, the community does an excellent job meeting this standard.

Essential Public Health Service #3: Inform, Educate and Empower



Best Practices in Essential Service #3 are identified as:

- Providing health information on ongoing public health issues that is easy for people to get and understand, such as influenza and West Nile Virus prevention, cancer and obesity prevention, and bioterrorism preparedness.
- Developing and providing health promotion activities in partnership with schools, faith communities, work sites, personal care providers and others to reduce health risks and promote better health.
- Developing effective communication processes designed to keep the community at large informed and be able to mobilize resources in times of crisis.

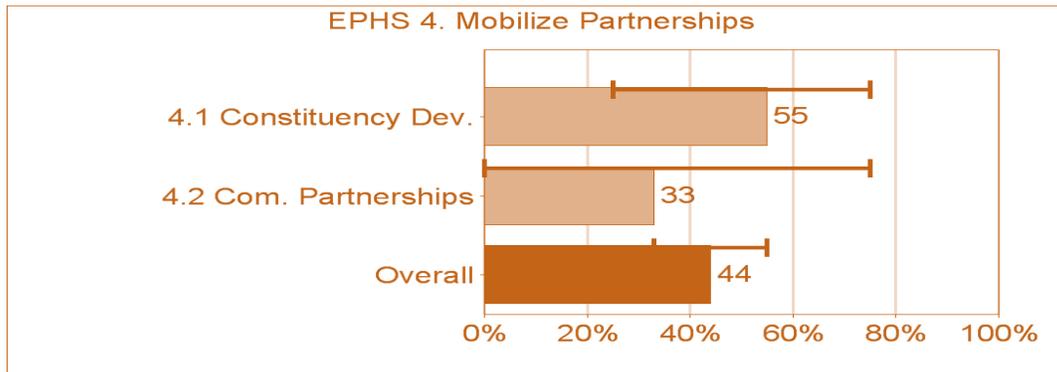
The Local Public Health System Strengths in this area were:

- Health system partners provide community residents with information on seasonal and ongoing public health issues, such as flu and blood-borne illnesses and prevention.
- Health system partners utilize various media channels, including print, radio, and internet to promote health related events.
- Health system partners provide crisis and emergency communications training for employees and establish protocols for the dissemination of public information during a public health emergency.
- Health system partners do a good job ensuring adequate resources should a rapid emergency response is needed.

Overall, according to the LPHSA, the community does significant work and meets this standard, but indicated the following areas as opportunities to improve.

- By providing additional health specific education, in particular to diverse groups, targeting health disparities within specific health populations.
- By assessing and evaluating the effectiveness of health education activities.
- By convening other health organizations (e.g., hospital) within community to develop community-wide health improvement plan.
- By identifying groups most in need in terms of health education efforts.
- By assessing community-wide health promotion activities which emphasize collaboration among system partners.
- By coordinating agreements between other community health organizations to determine specific roles and responsibilities toward improving community's health.

Essential Public Health Service # 4: Mobilize Community Partners



Best Practices in Essential Service #4 are identified as:

- Identifying and convening other health organizations (e.g., hospital, CBO's) within community to develop community-wide health improvement plan.
- Coordinating agreements between other community health organizations to determine specific roles and responsibilities toward improving community's health.
- Expanding partnerships among groups and associations to improve community health.

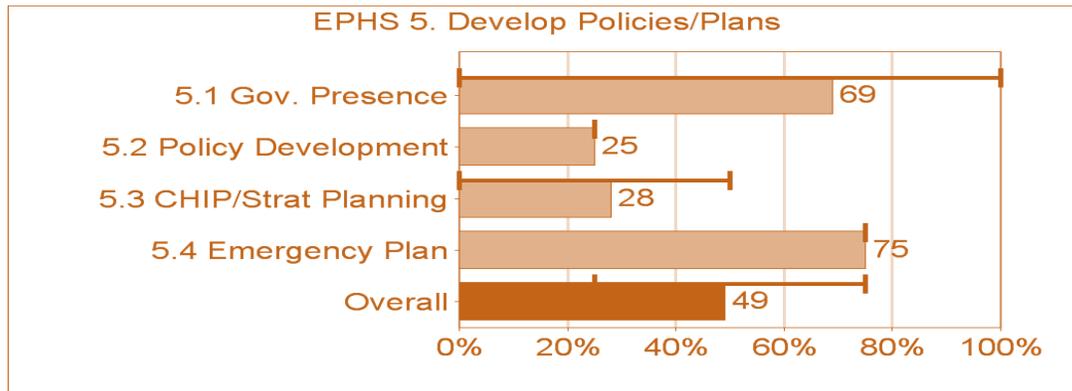
The Local Public Health System Strengths in this area were:

- Health system partners identify key constituents, and encourage these constituents in improving community health.
- Health system partners establish a broad-based community health improvement committee. This was identified as the Shared Services Network.
- Health system partners actively seek new ways to respond to the needs of the community by broadening communication strategies to provide current information about health services and issues.

Overall, according to the LPHSA, the community moderately meets this standard, but indicated the following areas as opportunities to improve.

- By increasing and expanding community partnerships to include businesses, diverse groups and citizens.
- By creating, maintaining and updating periodically a current directory of organizations that comprise the local public health system.
- By assessing the effectiveness of community partnerships in implementing prioritized goals.
- By strengthening the volunteer network through retention, recruitment and promotion related activities.
- By optimizing resources to deliver public essential services.

Essential Public Service #5: Policy Development



Best Practices in Essential Service #5 are identified as:

- Having an established governmental presence at the local level to advocate for policies that will improve public health.
- Having an established governmental presence at the local level to help develop policy, protect the health of the public and to guide the practice of public health.
- Having a process in place by which to effectively coordinate policy, resources and strategies to bring about a community health improvement plan.

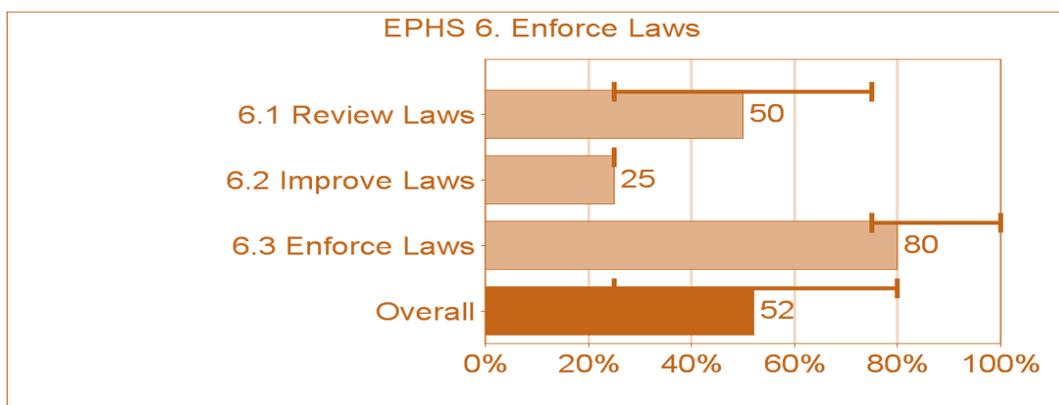
The Local Public Health System Strengths in this area were:

- Health system partners include a local government public health entity, which was identified as the Okeechobee County Health Department. This public health entity is aligned with the state public health system.
- Health system partners include the presence of a local health planning council and other system partners that conduct regional health planning and implementation activities to improve access to healthcare.
- Health system partners establish a task force to develop and maintain emergency preparedness and response plans.

Overall, according to the LPHSA, the community moderately meets this standard, but indicated the following areas as opportunities to improve:

- By assuring participation of stakeholders in implementation of a community health improvement plan.
- By establishing a community health improvement process.
- By ensuring that each entity within the local public health system conducts a strategic planning process, and reviews its organizational strategic plan.
- By participating on state and/or advisory panels responsible for developing strategies to achieve community health improvement objectives.

Essential Public Service #6: Enforce Laws and Regulations



Best Practices in Essential Services #6 are identified as:

- Enforcing public health code.
- Protecting drinking water supplies.
- Conducting timely inspections (i.e., restaurants, tattoo parlors, campgrounds, day care)
- Conducting timely environmental inspections (i.e. septic systems, pools, lead abatement)
- Following up on hazardous environmental exposures and preventable injuries.
- Serve quarantine/isolation order to individual infected with infectious diseases such as Tuberculosis, SARS, or Smallpox.
- Assisting in revising outdated public health laws and development of proposed public health legislation.

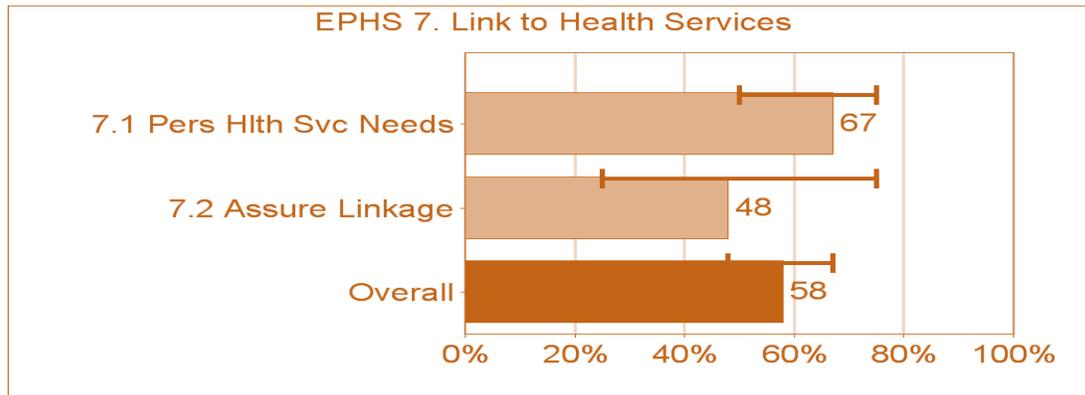
The Local Public Health System Strengths in this area were:

- Health system partners do a good job in identifying organizations within the LPHS that have the authority to enforce health laws, regulations and ordinances and empowering them to do so.
- Health system partners such as The Okeechobee County Health Department are especially empowered to implement necessary community interventions in the event of a public emergency.
- Health system partners assure that all enforcement activities are conducted in accordance with laws, regulations and ordinances.
- Health system partners provide information about public health laws, regulations and ordinances to system partners required to comply with laws.

Overall, according to the LPHSA, the community met this standard significantly, but indicated the following areas as opportunities to improve:

- By identifying local public health issues that are not adequately addressed through existing laws, regulations, and ordinances.
- By providing technical assistance to legislative regulatory or advocacy groups for drafting proposed legislation, regulations, or ordinances.

Essential Public Service #7: Link People to Health Services



Best Practices in Essential Services #7 are identified as:

- Establishing and maintaining a referral network for provision of personal health services to ensure that people who cannot afford health care get the care they need.
- Distributing mass quantities of antibiotics or vaccines in event of widespread disease outbreak (e.g., pandemic flu) or bio-terror-related attack (i.e., smallpox or anthrax)
- Identifying and locating special populations with barriers to personal health services; such as low-income families, minorities, and the uninsured.
- Providing culturally and language appropriate materials so that special groups of people can be linked with preventive services.

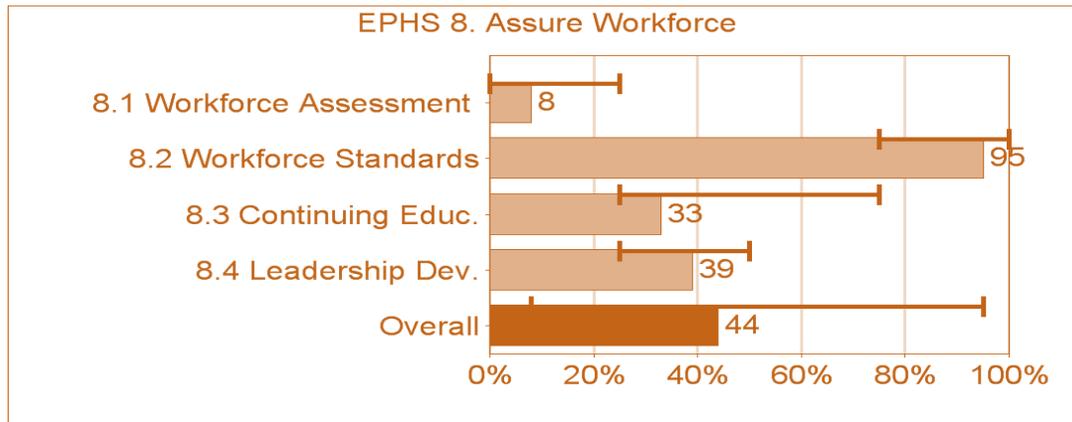
The Local Public Health System Strengths in this area were:

- Health system partners Identify the personal health service needs of populations who may experience barriers to personal health services.
- Health system partners define personal health service needs for all areas.

Overall, according to the LPHSA, the community met this standard substantially, but indicated the following areas as opportunities to improve:

- By assuring linkage to needed personal services to patient populations with barriers to care. (e. g. English Limited Proficiency populations, the uninsured, underinsured, homeless and disabled patient-populations).
- By providing transportation services for those with special needs.

Essential Public Service #8: Assure A Competent Workforce



Best practices in Essential Service #8 are identified as:

- Maintaining public health workforce standards and integrating core health competencies needed to provide the essential public health services into personnel systems.
- Funding professional development opportunities for staff.
- Testing emergency response plan during mock event to evaluate performance.

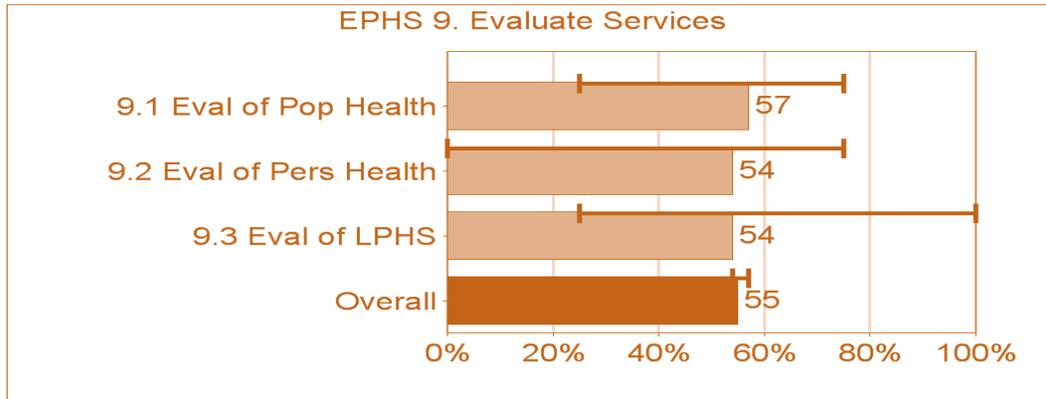
The Local Public Health System Strengths in this area were:

- Health system partners have done an outstanding job in developing written job standards and reviewing them periodically for all local health department personnel.
- The local health department has done an excellent job in conducting performance evaluations.
- Health system partners provide opportunities for health care personnel to develop core public health competencies.

Overall, according to the LPHSA, the community has moderately met this standard, but indicated the following areas as opportunities to improve:

- By establishing a collaborative process whereby gaps in the personal health workforce are addressed.
- By providing additional opportunities for continuing education, training and mentoring.
- By encouraging public health leadership development via accredited educational institutions.

Essential Public Service #9: Evaluate Services



Best Practices in Essential Service #9 are identified as:

- Monitoring trends in disease rates to assess effectiveness of disease prevention activities.
- Monitoring trends in risk factors (i.e., unprotected sex, drinking-and-driving, smoking) to assessing effectiveness of health promotion activities.
- Evaluating effectiveness of public health programs and services.

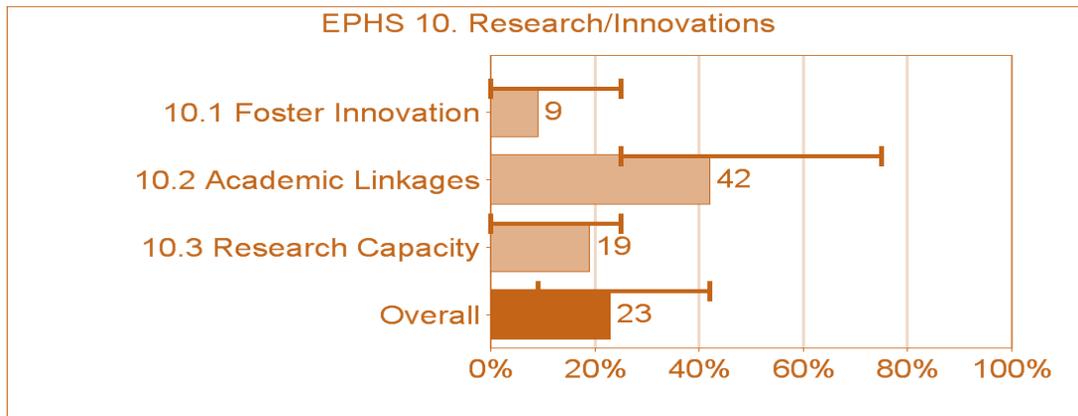
The Local Public Health System Strengths in this area were:

- Health system partners systematically gather input from residents that represent a cross-section of the community.
- Health system partners identify gaps in the provision of population-based health services.

Overall, according to the LPHSA, the community significantly met this standard and indicated the following areas as opportunities to improve:

- By conducting an evaluation of the Local Public Health System every three to five years.
- By using the results of these evaluations to develop strategic and operational plans and guide community health improvements.
- By regularly assessing and evaluating health education programs.

Essential Public Service #10: Research for New Insights



Best Practices in Essential Service #10 are identified as:

- Monitoring rapidly changing disease prevention research and health promotion research.
- Revising practices in order to remain current with recommended practices resulting from evidence-based research.

The Local Public Health System Strengths in this area were:

- Health system partners collaborate with an institution of higher learning that conducts research on public health related issues.

Overall, according to the LPHSA, the community conducts minimal activity in this area, and indicated the following areas as opportunities to improve:

- By evaluating research activities in epidemiological, policy and service research activities.
- By providing opportunities for staff to pilot test, design and conduct studies to determine the feasibility of implementing new ideas.
- By participating in public health practice based research networks.

All entities that contribute to the health and well-being of the community including public, private entities, civic and business groups, philanthropic, faith and educational institutions, impact the community health system. Collaborative discussion surrounding the results and potential areas for improvement can also increase awareness of the interconnectedness of community health activities. The goal is for agencies to identify strengths and weaknesses of the local health system that can be addressed through specific improvement efforts both as individual entities, as well as community health partners.

COMMUNITY FOCUS GROUPS

The Health Council of Southeast Florida conducted focus groups during August and September of 2011 in order to gain knowledge and insight from the residents of Okeechobee County. The discussions aimed to understand the experiences and the needs of the community and its residents regarding health services and the health care system. This report outlines the focus group methodology and provides a summary of the common themes, key issues and primary areas of interest identified during the focus group discussions.

Methodology

The Health Council of Southeast Florida developed the focus group protocols and questions from a framework utilized by other community needs assessments (see Appendix A and B). A trained focus group facilitator conducted the discussions. Community-based organizations serving specific target populations aided in the recruitment of participants. In order to participate, individuals needed to reside in Okeechobee County and meet criteria for the population being targeted. The following segments of the population were recruited: individuals over 65 years of age, migrant farmworkers and their families, persons with disabilities and expectant mothers 19-29 years of age. Each of the four focus groups had between six and ten participants and lasted approximately 1.5 hours. As an incentive for participation, a \$25 gift card was offered and issued at the conclusion of the meeting.

A total of 36 individuals participated in the focus groups. Of these individuals, 75% were of Hispanic/Latino origin, 22% were White and 3% were Black/African American. Twenty-eight percent had some college, 25% had a high school degree and 47% expressed a desire to get their GED or high school degree. The small sample sizes and non-random selection of participants prevent the generalizability of the results. However, the findings reflect a general consensus about the topics covered and issues discussed

Topics and General Themes Expressed in Focus Groups

Quality of Life in the Community:

The following themes and opinions were expressed by participants:

- Okeechobee is a good place to live and raise children;
- Feelings of safety;
- Neighborhood schools and surrounding playgrounds are safe and relatively quiet;
- Perception that neighbors “watch out” for each other;
- Individuals chose to live in Okeechobee because of the tranquility and the small size of the county;
- Living in Okeechobee allows one to know their neighbors;

- Most participants content with recreational sites available, but some thought there are too few options;
- Concern that “There is not much to do outside the school system”;
- Pregnant woman plan to become involved in school activities and to make suggestions for recreational activities.

Education/Economic Opportunities

The following themes and opinions were expressed by participants:

- Economic opportunities though always limited, are worse because of the economic crisis;
- Concern about lack of job opportunities, “I do not have many good job opportunities”;
- Need for job training, “I also need more job training to be considered for a decent job”;
- Desire to improve language skills by having nearby centers offer English as a second language classes;
- Desire to go back to school to finish GED or high school degree;
- Desire to learn a trade/s (e. g cosmetology, welding, childcare) to be better prepared for the job market;
- Individuals with disabilities need more job opportunities;
- Feelings of financial stress often necessitating support and assistance from the local churches, houses of worship and other community-based agencies.

Access, Quality and Barriers to Health Care

The following themes and opinions were expressed by participants:

- Utilization of safety net providers such as the Okeechobee County Health Department clinic and the Florida Community Health Centers;
- Very grateful for the Okeechobee Health Department and the Florida Community Health Centers and the kind, caring doctors and nurses at these facilities
- Seek services outside of the county when in need of healthcare specialists (obstetricians, pediatricians, dental care, orthopedics, cardiologists etc.), particularly for children;
- Dental care for children is hard to obtain at the Florida Community Health Centers due to many patients and long lines
- Main barrier to accessing care is the lack of health insurance (of participants approximately 30% had Medicaid, 27% had Medicare and 43% were uninsured.)
- Difficult to get good care if you are uninsured, “If you have health insurance you can receive adequate care because you can get appointments or go to the doctor of your choice”. “For the rest of us who do NOT have health insurance, it is very difficult to find good doctors or specialists and to get medications”;
- Lack of public transportation in the county makes it difficult to access services;
 - Must rely on family or friends or;
 - County community transportation program* which (for individuals who have Medicaid/Medicare) or pay out of pocket (uninsured individuals) or;

- *Individuals with Medicaid/Medicare can schedule a ride with “Community Transportation” to take residents to and from medical appointments. Participants report that transportation should be scheduled at least two weeks in advance, but in cases of an emergency, appointments may be accepted only one week in advance. There is small co-pay ranging from \$1 - \$4, depending on distance.
- Take private cabs to medical appointments (very costly and is last resort) -- -
- Transportation issues have caused missed/cancelled medical appointment, even when scheduled in advance
- Suggestion that if health centers offered many different services in the same location, many of the current problems with accessing care would be reduced.

Awareness of Availability of Community Resources

The following themes were expressed by participants:

- Health information should be more readily available to residents;
- Have to invest a lot of effort and time into finding out where to go for help (fear that a lot of people just give up or postpone seeking help);
- Some experience with 211 Palm Beach/Treasure Coast, i.e., calling to ask for help;
- Pleased to have resource like 211 Palm Beach/Treasure Coast.

Perceptions about Health and Human Services Needed

The following themes were expressed by participants:

- “There are not enough specialists in the County Of Okeechobee”.
- “We need more dentists, eye doctors, obstetricians, cardiologists, but without a way to get there, it is all for naught”.
- “What we need desperately is mass transit”.
- Shortage of dentists in the area providing care for the children in the county (source of frustration among young mothers in the focus group)
- Need for providers need recognized individuals with mental health issues- so many people have emotional problems and do not have anyone to help them (instead they use recreational street drugs);
- Challenges accessing care for disabled persons including: long time for an appointment, shortage of English speaking counselors, fear related issues regarding stigma and how they would be perceived in the community.

Most participants acknowledged that despite all the inconveniences, imperfections and gaps of health services, they individually can and should take more responsibility for their health by eating as healthy as possible, exercising, and making responsible lifestyle choices.

KEY INFORMANT INTERVIEWS

The Health Council of Southeast Florida conducted 12 informant interviews with key community leaders in August 2011. These individuals are instrumental in the delivery of services to Okeechobee residents. To ensure the confidentiality of their comments, the names or any other identifying information of the interviewees has not been included in this report. The survey instrument (Appendix D) aimed to gain an understanding of the role and scope of service of each contributing agency including: the level of demand for health and other services, the perceived barriers to care, the existing health issues in the community, the perceived systemic healthcare problems and specific suggestions the local public health system might employ to overcome current limitations and perceived barriers to care.

Following is summarization of the themes that emerged from the interviews.

Access and Perceived Barriers to Health Care:

Key informants surveyed for this report voiced their concerns over residents' timely access to health and social services due to a variety of circumstances. Some of these challenges mentioned include: lack of health insurance coverage, financial constraints and limited access to capital, inadequate infrastructure, shortages of primary care doctors and specialists in the county, limited workforce staff and support, lack of public transportation, the need for preventative care services, etc. The perception from the informants was that these factors create and worsen disparities in healthcare and that these challenges are expected to be even greater if state revenues continue to decline while financial pressures continue to rise. Additionally, key community leaders indicated that of particular concern are residents with special needs and limited resources such as: the elderly, disabled, low-income, the homeless, and those with limited English proficiency.

Lack of Health Insurance:

Lack of health insurance was discussed during interviews and is regarded, by the cohort interviewed, as one of the most challenging barriers to accessing healthcare services. Providers believed this is the number one reason service providers see that racial and ethnic health disparities continue to rise in their communities (e. g. see cancer, cardiovascular diseases, infectious and communicable diseases). Interviewees reported that even individuals with Medicaid are only able to access the Florida Community Health Centers or the County Health Department because most of the physician private practices in the county do not accept Medicaid.

Lack of Public Transportation:

A concern expressed during the interviews was the lack of public transportation services and the consequent difficulties in accessing services. Patients frequently report transportation issues as a major cause of missed medical appointments and failure to follow up with services, particularly with specialists outside the county.

Lack of Infrastructure/Limited Funding:

Interviewed individuals perceive the lack of infrastructure and limited funding as a barrier to attracting businesses and expanding existing health and social service facilities to better accommodate the number of individuals seeking help. Providers reported experiencing a substantial increase in the number of persons seeking assistance for all types of services. It was commented that community-based organizations providing health services need more funding in order to create more wellness and prevention programs, to meet the current demand for services, to attract, hire and retain the needed clinical staff and to extend the hours of operation. According to a few informants, the volume of requests for assistance and of clients/patients seeking care increases each year as does the complexity of the issues that staff members need to address.

Additional Challenges Faced by Service Providers:

The following issues were reported as challenges in the provision of services:

Limited Space: Most service providers admitted that the space is inadequate to accommodate the number of persons seeking medical help and other social services.

Health disparities: Concern was expressed about the health disparities among the uninsured, underinsured persons and low-income patient-populations. Key informants indicated that racial and ethnic minority patient-populations living below the federal poverty level, and hard to reach populations such as the homeless often face formidable barriers in seeking and accessing care including preventive care, acute treatment, or chronic disease management.

Physician recruitment and retention issues: Interviewees reported shortages of primary care doctors, nurses and other allied health professionals coupled with an influx of new patients in the county. Two-thirds of the organizations surveyed in this report experience staff shortages at their health centers limiting their capacity to see patients.

Interviewee Assessments of Services Needed:

- Increase hours of operation to include evening and weekend hours;
- Improve access to dental care
- Improve access to specialty care
- Increase mental health services and take action to reduce stigma
- Allocate shelter for the homeless
- Address lack of public transportation

Strategies and Recommendations:

Systemic changes were suggested by key stakeholders to enhance and promote health and wellness in order to improve health outcomes and reduce long-term cost. The following is a summary of proposed strategies for improving existing health and social services to Okeechobee residents:

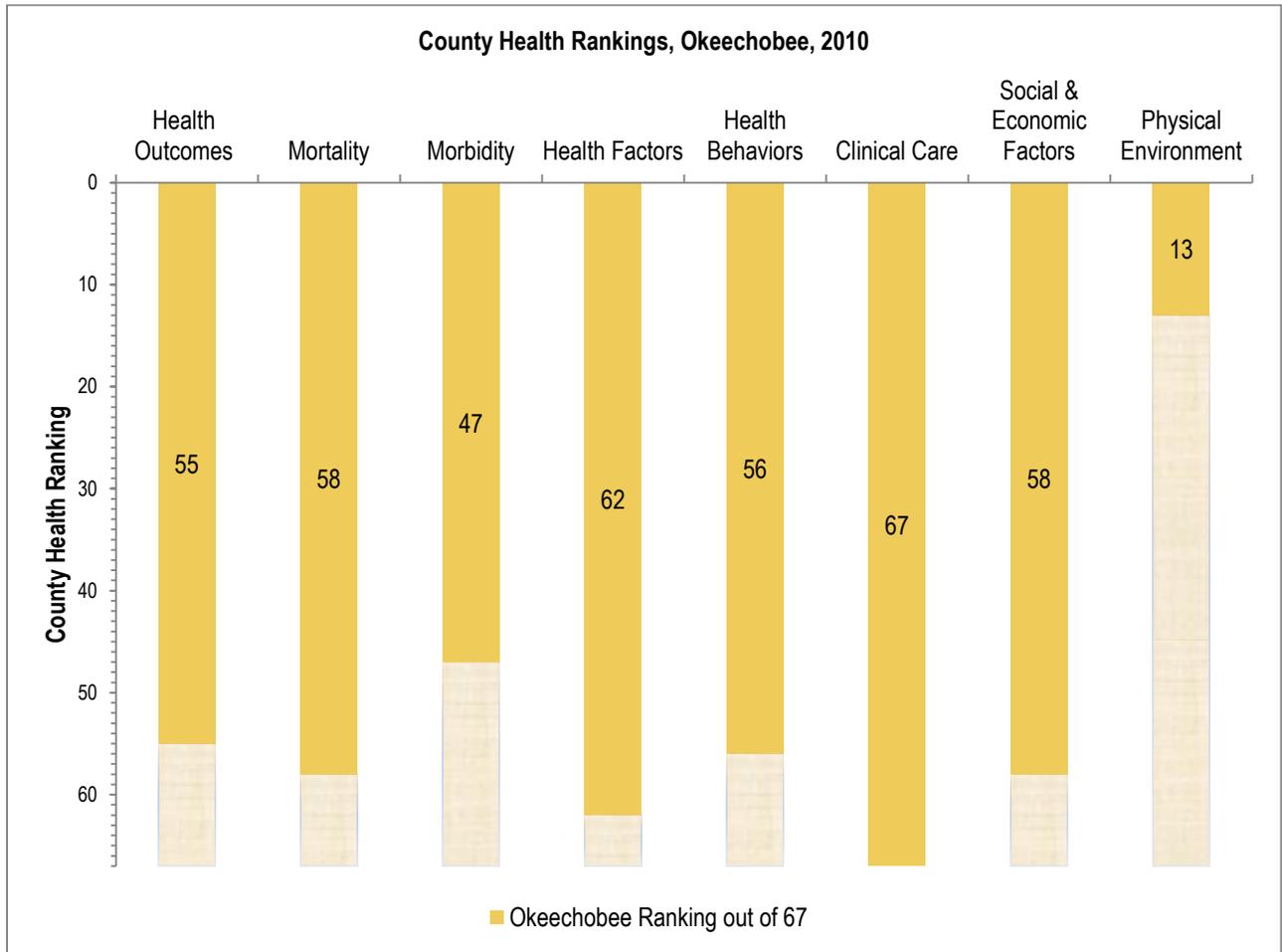
- Strengthen the “Patient Centered Medical Home Model” of care delivery of Federally Qualified Community Centers (FQHCs) to reduce need for expensive inpatient and Emergency Room visits.
- Increase and deepen collaborations between and among primary and preventive service providers and local faith-based institutions by using pastors to provide trustworthy information, assistance and support in a variety of critical areas and to reach the neediest individuals.
- Create associative networks and build strategic alliances with the business community to engage them in economic development activities in order to attract more business and increase tax revenue to the county.
- Promote inter-agency collaboration and service coordination within and among service providers.
- Provide professional training opportunities and cultural competency training for frontline staff as these individuals have contact and communications with clients.
- Create a directory of community resources, making all existing resources more readily available to the public; assure it is comprehensive and updated regularly and disseminated to service providers.

COUNTY HEALTH RANKINGS

Each year, since 2003, every county in the country is given a global health rank based on strict measures in four distinct health domains: health behaviors, clinical care, social and economic factors and physical environment. This project is called *County Health Rankings* and was established by The Robert Wood Johnson Foundation and the University of Wisconsin population Institute in 2003.

Figure 1 shows the Okeechobee County's health ranking for 2010. The 67 counties in Florida are ranked 1-67 (1 is the highest) on various components contributing to health status. Okeechobee's highest ranking was in physical environment where it received a ranking of 13 out of 67. Appendix E provides more specific information on the ranking process.

Figure 1



Source: University of Wisconsin Population Health Institute. County Health Rankings 2010, Released March 30, 2011
 Compiled by: Health Council of Southeast Florida, 2011

CONCLUSION

Communities face the challenge of balancing the desire to provide residents access to quality health and human services with decreasing resources and increasing demand. Therefore, it is important to thoroughly research and investigate issues within the community to help assure that resources are allocated where they are most needed. It is important when considering and using the information in the assessment to recognize that certain segments within the population may be affected by health conditions disproportionately. The disparity may be due to race, ethnicity, gender, age, disability status, socio-economic status, educational attainment, etc. Some of these disparities have been highlighted in the narrative. Planning efforts should take into consideration the characteristics and needs of these disproportionately affected groups, as well as the underlying causes for the disparity, in order to most effectively address the issues. This community needs assessment will enable Okeechobee County to better understand the needs of its community and aid in planning for services in an effort to most efficiently use its resources and improve the health of its residents.

Appendix A

Okeechobee County Resident Focus Group Moderators Guide

Hello and welcome to our discussion group! Each of you is here today as a resident of Okeechobee County; and have a unique perspective on the services that are provided in your communities.

My name is.....and I represent The Health Council of Southeast Florida, Inc. and we are working on a Health Needs Assessment Report to help our local policymakers and healthcare providers focus on the health care needs that you feel are important. We will be talking in general about the quality of life in your community and also about health needs that you and your families may have. The purpose is to understand what you think are the most pressing healthcare needs of your community and the factors that influence an individual's health and health care. Your input is very important to us.

We are conducting four (4) focus groups in Okeechobee County. Our goal is to have everyone here feel comfortable and able to speak openly, share their thoughts, ideas and experiences honestly. There are no wrong answers. So please feel free to share your experiences and your point of view, even if it is different from what others have said.

Your comments will be summarized in a report, but nobody here will be identified by name. We will not be using your name when we report the results of the study. Because we are taking notes of this discussion so that we can write our report, it is important for everyone to speak up and that only one person talks at a time.

My role will be to ask questions and listen. It is important for us to hear from all of you tonight because you all have different and valuable experiences. You will be receiving a Publix or Winn-Dixie card gift for participating in our discussion.

Does anyone have any questions before we begin? If there are no additional questions, we will begin.

I'd like to start by going around the table and have everyone introduce themselves. Please tell us your name and how long you have lived in Okeechobee County?

Apéndice A

Grupo de Enfoque Condado de Okeechobee Guía del Moderador

Bienvenidos a nuestro grupo de enfoque. Ustedes han sido invitados puesto que residen en el condado de Okeechobee; y tienen experiencias y opiniones acerca de los servicios existentes en sus respectivas comunidades.

Mi nombre es.....y trabajo para la organización Health Council of Southeast Florida, Inc. Estamos preparando un informe detallado sobre los servicios de atención médica. Uno de los objetivos de este estudio es el de evaluar e identificar todos aquellos servicios de atención médica y programas sociales que existen actualmente y aquellos que aún no están disponibles en el condado, pero que ustedes consideran importantes para mantener su calidad de vida. Se necesita saber cuáles son las necesidades más importantes en el condado de Okeechobee; e identificar aquellos factores que influyen en la salud de una persona. Sus opiniones acerca de éste tema son sumamente importante para nosotros.

Estamos llevando a cabo cuatro (4) grupos de enfoque en el condado de Okeechobee. Nuestro objetivo es que cada uno de ustedes se sienta a gusto, cómodo/a y libre para poder hablar abiertamente, compartir sus pensamientos, ideas y experiencias con franqueza. No hay respuestas incorrectas. Así, que por favor siéntase libre de compartir sus experiencias y su punto de vista, incluso y especialmente si es diferente de lo que han dicho otros. Sus comentarios se resumirán en un informe, pero nadie será identificado por nombre en el informe. Le daremos a cada uno de ustedes la oportunidad de expresar su opinión.

Mi papel es el de hacer las preguntas y escuchar detenidamente. Es importante el poder escuchar de cada uno de ustedes, ya que todos ustedes tienen o han tenido experiencias únicas y diferentes en cuanto a servicios y programas de atención a la salud. Ustedes recibirán una tarjeta de Publix o de Winn- Dixie por \$25.00 dólares por haber participado en éste grupo de enfoque.

Antes de comenzar. Hay alguna pregunta? Si no hay preguntas, entonces comencemos!

Me gustaría pedirle a cada uno de ustedes que comience por decir su nombre y que nos diga cuánto tiempo lleva viviendo en el condado de Okeechobee.

Appendix B

Okeechobee County Resident Focus Group Questions

Let us begin by asking your opinions regarding the quality of life in your community?

1. How do you feel about living in your community? Is it a safe place to live?

- Safety in the home
- Safety in the workplace
- Schools and playgrounds

2. Is it a good place to raise children? If so why? If not why not?

3. Do you think Okeechobee County is a good place to grow old?

- Churches
- Shopping
- Elder day care services
- Social support organizations
- Recreational activities
- Other (Please specify)

4. What do you think about economic opportunities in the community”

- Jobs and career growth
- Job training
- Local businesses
- Educational opportunities
- Affordable housing options

Now, we would like to talk about access to health and social services in your community?

5. Where do you get most of your health care now, in your neighborhood or outside of your neighborhood?

- At a doctors' office
- At the ER
- Okeechobee County health Department
- Local community clinic

If outside neighborhood, ask why this is the case?

- What type of services do you need to get outside your community? Tell us about your experience in this regard?
- Would you prefer to go somewhere else? Why or why not?
- Is this the same place where other members of your family receive their health care? Why or why not?
- How many of you have a regular doctor who you've gone to more than once?

6. Have any of you had problems getting the health care that you need?
 - What are the main problems you have faced getting health care services in your neighborhood /community?”
 - Have you been able to overcome any of these problems? If so, how did you do it?
7. We often hear transportation is an issue when trying to access healthcare. Is transportation an issue that affects or has affected you?
 - If so, what kind of transportation services do you need to be able to access health care, education and employment?
8. What health services do you need that are not currently available to you and your family?
9. Are you aware of the different public health services that are available in your Okeechobee County?
 - Are you able to locate the health information or resource that you need?
10. What kinds of health programs would you like to see established in Okeechobee County?
11. What is your level of satisfaction with the health care system in Okeechobee County?
 - Cost
 - Quality of care
 - Access to care
 - Prescription drugs
12. What is your perspective on the role of community members, like your selves play in improving the overall health in Okeechobee County?
13. Do you have any additional comments you would like to add regarding the quality of life or the quality of health care services available in your community?

Apéndice B

Condado de Okeechobee Encuesta de Salud Comunitaria

- 1) ¿En general, está usted satisfecho/a con la calidad de vida en el condado de Okeechobee?
Se siente segura/o en su comunidad?
 - a. Seguridad en el trabajo
 - b. Seguridad en las escuelas
 - c. Seguridad en los parques y otros lugares de recreación.

- 2) ¿Considera éste un buen lugar para criar hijos? Si es así, porqué? Si no, porqué no?

- 3) ¿ Considera usted el condado de Okeechobee, un buen lugar para envejecer?
 - Iglesias
 - Centros comerciales
 - Casas de envejecimiento
 - Red de apoyo social
 - Centros de recreación
 - Algo más? (por favor especifique)

- 4) ¿Cuál es su opinión acerca de oportunidades para avanzar económicamente en su comunidad?
 - Oportunidad de trabajos y avance profesional
 - Oportunidades de comercio
 - Oportunidades educacionales
 - Opciones de viviendas

Ahora, nos gustaría dialogar sobre el acceso a servicios de atención médica y otros programas de carácter social en su comunidad.

- 5) ¿ A dónde acude usted si se enferma?
 - Al consultorio médico?
 - A la sala de urgencias del hospital en el condado de Okeechobee?
 - A la sala de urgencias de otro hospital fuera del condado de Okeechobee?
 - Al departamento de Salud del condado de Okeechobee?
 - A la clínica local de la comunidad?

Si necesita ir a un centro de salud fuera de su comunidad díganos porqué?

- Qué tipo de servicios de atención a la salud necesita fuera de su comunidad? Háblenos sobre su experiencia.
 - Preferiría ir a un lugar diferente? La razón?
 - Es ese el mismo lugar en donde otros miembros de su familia obtienen servicios de atención médica? La razón?
 - Cuántos de ustedes han recurrido al mismo doctor más de una vez?
- 6) ¿ Ha tenido dificultades en obtener servicios de salud que necesita?
- Cuáles han sido las dificultades con las cuales se ha tropezado?
 - Ha podido resolver alguna/s de éstas dificultades? Qué hizo?
- 7) ¿ Es el transporte un impedimento para usted en obtener servicios de atención médica?
- Si es así, que tipo de servicios de transporte necesitaría usted para poder acceder servicios de salud, empleo y educación?
- 8) ¿Qué servicios de atención médica necesita que son difíciles de obtener?
- 9) ¿Crée usted conocer o saber acerca de los diferentes servicios de salud pública disponibles en el condado de Okeechobee?
- Puede usted localizar con facilidad la información sobre servicios de atención médica o de salud u otros recursos comunitarios?
- 10) ¿Qué tipo de servicios o programas de atención a la salud le gustaría que hubiese en su comunidad?
- 11) ¿Qué tan satisfecho/a está usted con los servicios que se ofrecen en el condado de Okeechobee?
- a. Costo?
 - b. Calidad de servicio?
 - c. Opciones de centros de salud y medicina integral
 - d. Medicamentos?
- 12) ¿Como pudiese usted contribuir al mejoramiento de su salud y por ende al mejoramiento del sistema de salud pública en su condado?
- 13) ¿ Hay alguna otra cosa que le gustaría agregar acerca de la calidad de vida o disponibilidad de servicios de atención médica y servicios sociales en su comunidad?

Appendix C

Okeechobee County Resident Focus Group Demographic Questions

Please complete this demographic form. You do not need to answer any question that makes you uncomfortable. If you have any questions, please ask us!

1. What ZIP code do you live in? _____

2. What is your age? _____

3. What is your gender? (check only one)

Female

Male

4. What race do you identify with most? (check only one)

Asian

Black or African American

Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander

American Indian, Alaskan Native, or Indigenous

White /Caucasian

Hispanic Background

No answer

5. What is the highest grade or year in school you have completed? (check only one)

6th grade or less

Some middle school or some high school, no diploma (grades 7 -11)

High school graduate or GED (grade 12)

Some college, No degree

Associate's degree,

Certificate from vocational, business, or trade school

4-years of college or higher, with bachelor's degree or higher

Other: _____

No answer

6. Do you work now? (check only one)

Work 35 or more hours per week

Work less than 35 hours per week

Unemployed

Other: _____

No answer

7. Do you have any kind of health care coverage, private carrier, Medicaid, Medicare, Florida KidCare, or any other (please specify). (check only one)

- Yes
- No
- Do Not know
- Prefer not to answer

8. If you have health care coverage, what kind? (check only one)

- Don't know/not sure
- prefer not to answer

9. What is your annual household income from all sources, including money from jobs, social security, unemployment benefits, public assistance, and retirement income? (check only one)

- \$0 - \$10,000
- \$10,001 - \$20,000
- \$20,001 - \$40,000
- \$40,001 – or more
- Prefer not to answer

Apéndice C

Encuesta de Salud Comunitaria Condado de Okeechobee Formulario Demográfico

Favor de completar éste formulario. Deje en blanco culaquier pregunta que lo haga sentir incómodo/a. Déjenos saber si tiene cualquier pregunta respecto a este formulario. Gracias!

1. ¿Cuál es el código postal en el que reside? _____
2. ¿Qué edad tiene? _____
3. ¿Cuál es su género? (Márque la opción que le corresponde)
 Mujer
 Hombre
4. ¿Cuál es su raza u origen étnico? (Márque la opción que le corresponde)
 Asiático
 Africano Americano/Negro
 Nativo del Hawai u otros isleños del Pacífico
 Indio Americano o indígena
 Blanco (no de origen Hispano o Latino)
 Hispano/Latino
 Otro origen étnico
5. ¿Cuál es el más alto grado o año de estudio que ha completado? (Márque la opción que le corresponde)
 Sexto grado o menor
 Escuela secundaria , algunos años de bachillerato pero sin diploma (grados 7-11)
 Estudios de bachillerato, con diploma o equivalente de GED (grado 12)
 Uno o dos años de estudios universitarios (con diploma)
 Diploma por haber completado dos (2) años de estudios universitarios
 Certificado de formación profesional
 4 años o más de estudios universitarios con diploma
 Otro tipo de diploma o certificación
 Prefiero no responder
6. ¿Trabaja usted ahora? (Márque la opción que le corresponde)
 Trabajo 35 horas o más por semana
 Trabajo menos de 35 horas por semana
 Desempleado/a
 Otra opción:
 Prefiero no responder

7. ¿ Tiene usted algún seguro Médico? Medicaid? Medicare, seguro médico para niños menores de 18 años de edad? (Márque la opción que le corresponde)

- Si (que tipo tiene? _____)
- No
- No se/ no estoy seguro/a
- Prefiero no responder

8. ¿ Si tiene algun seguro médico, que tipo de seguro tiene? (Márque la opción que le corresponde)

9. ¿Cuál es su ingreso anual? Favor de incluir ingresos provenientes de fuentes tales como: asistencia pública, seguro social, desempleo y jubilación, etc.) (Márque la opción u opciones que le corresponde)

- \$0 - \$10,000
- \$10,001 - \$20,000
- \$20,001 - \$40,000
- \$40,001 – or more
- Prefiero no responder

Appendix D

Okeechobee County Informant Interview Questions

1. What role does your organization have in the local public health system?
2. How do patient/clients/consumers learn about your services?
3. How do other providers learn about your services?
4. What are your greatest challenges in providing these services to the community?
5. How do you know if your programs/services are successful?
6. What specific health and social services do you think should receive more emphasis in the community than they do now?
7. What specific health and social services do you think should receive less emphasis in the community than they do now?
8. Are there any populations that you believe have significant unmet needs?
9. What do you see as the key barriers for individuals/families in accessing health care and other services in Okeechobee County?
10. What do you think patients/clients/consumers see as barriers in accessing health care and other services in Okeechobee County?
11. What strategies can you suggest for overcoming these barriers?
12. How can existing health and social services be improved?
13. Is there anything else you would like to add about health and social services in Okeechobee County?

Appendix E



Ranking System County Health Rankings

The *County Health Rankings* are based on a conceptual model of population health that includes both Health Outcomes (length and quality of life) and Health Factors (determinants of health). These Outcomes and Factors were broken down into a number of components, which were additionally broken down into subcomponents we call Focus Areas.

After developing the *Rankings* model, the next step in creating the *Rankings* was to establish weights for each component in the model and find appropriate measures. The process for choosing weights and measures was guided by

- Review of the literature around the impact of various factors on health outcomes
- Ability for factors to be modified through community action
- Review of America's Health Rankings methodology and indicators
- Availability and reliability of indicators at the county level throughout the nation
- Analysis
- Feedback from a panel of technical experts

The Rankings are based on summary composite scores calculated from the individual measures. We calculate and rank eight different summary composites:

1. **Overall Health Outcomes**
2. Health Outcomes – **Mortality**
3. Health Outcomes – **Morbidity**
4. **Overall Health Factors**
5. Health Factors – **Health behaviors**
6. Health Factors – **Clinical care**
7. Health Factors – **Social and economic factors**
8. Health Factors – **Physical environment**

The overall Health Outcomes summary score is a weighted composite of Mortality (50%) and Morbidity (50%). The overall Health Factors summary score is a weighted composite of four components: Health behaviors (30%), Clinical care (20%), Social and economic factors (40%), and Physical environment (10%). Note that the component weights add to 100%.

We would like to emphasize that there is no one "correct" formula or "true" set of weights that perfectly represents the health of a community. Indeed, even a very good system by today's

standards might not perform well over long periods of time or under all possible circumstances. *County Health Rankings* staff have used information from a wide variety of sources--scientific research, available data, expert opinion, statistical analysis--to arrive at a set of easy to understand weights that reasonably reflect the different components and determinants of health. Of course, they are not perfect, but we stand by them as reasonable estimates supported by the best available evidence balanced with the availability of health data and interpretability.

Health Outcome Summary Score

To calculate the summary score for Health Outcomes, we combined scores for Mortality (50%) and Morbidity (50%) to produce 100% of the Health Outcomes summary score. The weights for specific measures were assigned based on relative importance within the factor and considerations of data reliability and availability. Within morbidity, we assign a higher weight to the low birthweight measure since this measure is based on a census of all live births whereas the other measures are based on a survey of a sample of the population.

Health Outcome Weights for the 2011 County Health Rankings

Outcome	Focus Area	Measure
Mortality (50%)	Premature death	Years of potential life lost before age 75 (50%)
Morbidity (50%)	Quality of life	Percent reporting poor or fair health (10%)
		Physically unhealthy days (10%)
		Mentally unhealthy days (10%)
	Poor birth outcomes	Low birthweight live births (20%)

Health Factors Summary Score

To calculate the summary score of health factors, weights were determined for each of the four major factors (Health behaviors, Clinical care, Social and economic factors, and the Physical environment) based on a review of the literature, expert opinion, and data analysis. Additional information is available about the methods used to determine these weights (*Working Paper on Assigning Determinant Weights*). The following weights were used to calculate the overall Health Factors summary score: Health behaviors (30%), Clinical care (20%), Social and economic factors (40%), and the Physical environment (10%). Like the Health Outcomes summary score, weights at each level sum to 100%.

The weights for specific measures were assigned based on relative importance within the factor and considerations of data reliability and availability. A table presenting the weights follows.

Health Factor Weights for the 2011 County Health Rankings

Health Factor	Focus Area	Measure
Health behaviors (30%)	Smoking (10%)	Adult smoking rate (10%)
	Diet and exercise (10%)	Adult obesity rate (10%)
	Alcohol use (5%)	Excessive drinking (2.5%) Motor vehicle crash death rate (2.5%)
	Unsafe sex (5%)	Sexually transmitted infection rate (2.5%) Teen birth rate (2.5%)
Clinical care (20%)	Access to care (10%)	Adult uninsured rate (5%) Primary care providers (5%)
	Quality of care (10%)	Hospitalization rates for ambulatory-sensitive conditions (5%) Diabetic screening rate (2.5%) Mammography screening rate (2.5%)
Social and economic factors (40%)	Education (10%)	High school graduation rate (5%) Adults with college degrees (5%)
	Employment (10%)	Unemployment rate (10%)
	Income (10%)	Children in poverty (10%)
	Family and social support (5%)	Social and emotional support (2.5%) Single-parent households (2.5%)
	Community safety (5%)	Violent crime or homicide rate (5%)
Physical environment (10%)	Environmental quality (5%)	Unhealthy air quality due to particulate matter (2.5%) Unhealthy air quality due to ozone (2.5%)
	Built environment (5%)	Access to healthy foods (2.5%) Access to recreational facilities (2.5%)

Source: Information copied from County Health Rankings' website: www.countyhealthrankings.org, Sept. 2011.

Appendix F

Okeechobee County Resource List

Ambulatory Surgical Center		
Surgery Center of Okeechobee, Inc.	1655 Highway 441 North, Okeechobee, FL 34972	(941) 357-6220
Assisted Living Facility		
Grand Oaks	203 SE 2nd Street, Okeechobee, FL 34974	(863) 824-6770
The Heritage	608 NE 2nd Avenue, Okeechobee, FL 34972	(863) 763-1700
Community Resource Organizations		
Agency for Health Care Administration - Area 9	1655 Palm Beach Lakes Blvd. C-300, W. P. B., FL 33401	(561) 712-4400
American Cancer Society, IRC Unit	3375 20th Street, Suite 100, Vero Beach, FL 32960	(772) 562-2272
Business Development Board of Okeechobee County, Inc	412 NW 3rd Street, Okeechobee, FL 34972	(863) 467-6246
Economic Opportunity Council of Indian River county, Inc.	2455 Saint Lucie Avenue, Vero Beach, FL 32960	(772) 562-4177
Indian River Community College	2229 NW. 9th Avenue, Okeechobee, FL 34972	(863) 824-6000
Okeechobee City Police Department	50 SE. 2nd Avenue, Okeechobee, FL 34974	(863) 763-5521
Red Cross of Okeechobee	323 North Parrott Ave, Okeechobee, FL 34972	(863) 763-2488
The Salvation Army (Okeechobee County)	P.O. Box 1702, Okeechobee, FL 34973-1702	(863) 763-6020
United Way of Martin County	10 SE Central Parkway, Suite101, Stuart, FL 34994	(772) 283-4800
Workforce Solutions-Region 20	584 NW University Blvd., Suite 100, Pt. St. Lucie, FL 34986	(772) 335-3030
YMCA	100 YMCA Lane, Sebring, FL 33875	(863) 382-9622
Counseling		
Alcoholics Anonymous		(863) 763-1006
Innovative Treatment Services, Inc.	410 NW 3rd Street, Okeechobee, FL 34972	(863) 467-5335
Okeechobee Family Outreach Center	901 SW 6th Street, Okeechobee, FL 34974	(863) 763-2751
The Pentecostals of Okeechobee	405 SW 10th Avenue, Okeechobee, FL 34974	(863) 467-1611
Crisis Assistance		
Florida Coalition Against Domestic Violence		(800) 500-1119
Martha's House Women's Crisis Center		(863) 763-0202

Project Response	410 NW 2nd Street, Okeechobee, FL 34972	(863) 467-5322
Dental		
Atlantic Coast District Dental Association	Low Income Dental Services - Serving Okeechobee County	(561) 968-7714
Dr. Browns Children's Center	2015 Highway 441 North , Okeechobee, FL 34972	(863) 763-1951
Disability Assistance		
Coalition for Independent Living	8000 S US Hwy 1, Suite 304, Port St. Lucie, FL 34952	(772) 878-3500
Okeechobee County Emergency Operations Center	499 NW 5th Avenue, Okeechobee, FL 34972	(863) 763-3212
Emergency Food Assistance Programs		
Church of God Prophecy	102 NW 10th Street, Okeechobee, FL 34972	(863) 634-7210
First Baptist Church of Okeechobee	401 SW 4th Street, , Okeechobee, FL 34974	(863) 763-7825
Lamb of God Ministries Outreach Program	1012 Parrott Avenue, , Okeechobee, FL 34972	(863) 467-2671
Living Word of Faith Fellowship	1902 S Parrott Avenue, , Okeechobee, FL 34972	(863) 763-6869
Oakview Baptist Church	677 SW 32nd Street, Okeechobee, FL 34974	(863) 763-1699
Okeechobee Church of God	301 NE 4th Avenue, Okeechobee, FL 34972	(863) 763-4127
Okeechobee Presbyterian Church	312 North Parrott Avenue, Okeechobee, FL 34972	(863) 467-5826
Pentecostals of Okeechobee	405 SW 10th Avenue, Okeechobee, FL 34974	(863) 467-1611
Project 15:11 Okeechobee of the Nazarene	425 SW 28th Street, Okeechobee, FL 34974	(863) 763-3519
Faith Based Programs		
Big Lake Missions Outreach	605 NW 16th Street, Okeechobee, FL 34972	(863) 763-5725
Faith Farm Ministries	7595 NE 128th Avenue, Okeechobee, FL 34972	(863) 763-4224
Hope Ministry Center	1109 SE 7th Street, Okeechobee, FL 34972	(863) 357-1319
Lamb of God Ministries Outreach Program	1012 S Parrott Avenue, Okeechobee, FL 34974	(863) 467-2677
Family Services		
Centro Campesino Farmworker Center	35801 SW 186th Avenue, Florida City, FL 33034	(305) 245-7738
Florida Department of Children & Families	337 North US Hwy 1, Suite 327C, Fort Pierce, FL 34950	(866) 762-2237
Healthy Families	1100 SE Federal Highway, Stuart, FL 34994	(772) 320-0782
General Assistance		
Red Cross of Okeechobee	323 North Parrot Ave, Okeechobee, FL 34972	(863) 763-2488
United Way of Martin County	10 SE Central Parkway, Suite 101, Stuart, FL 34994	(772) 283-4800
Health Centers		

Community Based Outreach Clinic (VAMC)	1201 N Parrott Avenue, Okeechobee, FL 34972	(863) 824-3232
Florida Community Health Centers	1505 Delaware Avenue, Fort Pierce, FL 34950	(772) 461-1402
Metcare of Okeechobee	208 NE 19TH DR, Okeechobee, FL 34972	(888) 466-1679
Okeechobee County Health Department	1728 NW 9th Avenue, Okeechobee, FL 33494	(863) 462-5794
Okeechobee Health Care Facility	1646 Highway 441 N, Okeechobee, FL 34972	(863) 763-2226
Home Health Agency		
Big Lake Home Health Services , Inc.	111 NE 11th Street, Okeechobee, FL 34972	(863) 467-9997
Big Lake Home Health Services of Glade County, Inc.	1124 Buck Head Ridge Road, Okeechobee, FL 34974	(863) 763-0804
Nurse On Call of South Florida, Inc.	413 S Parrott Avenue. UNIT 6 & 7, Okeechobee, FL 34974	(863) 357-0024
Visiting Nurse Association of Florida, Inc.	208 SE PARK ST, Okeechobee, FL 34972	(863) 357-2197
Home Medical Equipment and Service		
All About You Caregivers, Inc.	605 W S Park Street, Suite 215, Okeechobee, FL 34972	(863) 824-8733
Lincare, Inc.	107 SW 17th Street, Suite B & C, Okeechobee, FL 34974	(863) 763-7337
Professional Respiratory Home Care, Inc.	1020 N Parrott Avenue, Okeechobee, FL 34972	(863) 763-2688
Radiant Development Center, LLC	1702 NE 3rd Street, Okeechobee, FL 34972	(813) 546-0891
Suncoast Medical Equipment	412 NE Park Street, Okeechobee, FL 34972	(863) 467-8711
Hospice		
Hospice of Okeechobee, Inc.	411 SE 4th Street, Okeechobee, FL 34974	(863) 467-2321
Hospital		
Lawnwood Regional Medical Center & Heart Institute	1700 S 23rd Street, Fort Pierce, FL 34950	(772) 461-4000
Port St. Lucie Hospital	2550 SE Walton Road, Port St. Lucie, FL 34952	(772) 335-0400
Raulerson Hospital	1796 Highway 441 North, Okeechobee, FL 34972	(863) 763-2151
Housing		
Emergency Financial Assistance for Housing (DCF) Office on Homelessness	P.O. Box 7296, Tallahassee, FL 32314	(877) 891-6445
Treasure Coast Homeless Services Council	2525 Saint Lucie Avenue, Vero Beach, FL 32960	(772) 567-7790
Okeechobee Non-Profit Housing, Inc.	1307 S Parrott Avenue, Okeechobee, FL 34974	(863) 467-1171
Legal Assistance		
Florida Rural Legal Services	510 S U.S. Hwy 1, Suite 1, Fort Pierce, FL 34948-4333	(772) 466-4766
Trueblood Law Group, P.A.	24704 N US Hwy 27 NW, Moore Haven, FL 33471	(863) 946-9160

Mental Health		
Children's Counseling Network, LLC	605 SW Park Street, Okeechobee, FL 34972	(863) 634-7226
Legacy Behavioral Health Center (Okeechobee)	304 NW 5th Street Plaza 300, Okeechobee, FL 34972	(888) 975-3422
New Horizons of the Treasure Coast	1600 SW 2nd Avenue, Okeechobee, FL 34972	(863) 462-0040
Suncoast Mental Health	2814 South US Hwy #1, Ste D-4, Fort Pierce, FL 34982	(772) 489-4726
Welcome House	1925 US Highway 441, Okeechobee, FL 34974	(863) 467-1026
Nurse Registry		
All About You Caregivers, Inc.	206 SW 3rd Street, Okeechobee, FL 34974	(863) 824-8733
Shirleys's Personal Care Services Of Okeechobee, Inc.	200 SE 3rd Street, Okeechobee, FL 34974	(863) 467-6399
Nursing Home		
Okeechobee Health Care Facility	1646 Highway 441 N, Okeechobee, FL 34972	(863) 763-2226
Pharmacy/Prescription Assistance		
CVS Pharmacy	106 N. Parrott Avenue, Okeechobee, FL 34972	(863) 763-3169
Partnership for Prescription Assistance	http://www.prescriptionprogramassistance.com	(888) 477-2669
Rx Assist	http://rxassist.org/	(409) 729-3283
Walgreens Pharmacy	100 NW Park Street, Okeechobee, FL 34972	(863) 357-1754
Wal-Mart Pharmacy	2101 S Parrott Avenue, Okeechobee, FL 34972	(863) 467-8398
Referral Information		
211 Palm Beach/Treasure Coast	1836 14th Avenue, Vero Beach, FL 32960	(772)567-8900
Rehabilitation Agency		
New American Physical Therapy, Inc.	1204 N Parrott Avenue, Okeechobee, FL 34972	(863) 763-7773
Senior Assistance		
Department of Elder Affairs, 9B CARES Office	337 N 4th St., Suite E, Fort Pierce, FL 34950	(772) 460-3692
Elder Helpline for Okeechobee County		(866) 684-5885
Laurel Oaks Senior Apartments	1800 NW 3rd Lane, Okeechobee, FL 34972	(863) 467-2680
Okeechobee Senior Services	1019 S.W. Park Street, Okeechobee, FL 34972	(863) 462-5180
Seniors Are Able, Inc.	406 NW 4th Street, Okeechobee, FL 34972	(863) 357-2442
Seminole Tribe of Florida	Route 6, Box 587, Okeechobee, FL 34974	(863) 763-0638
Social Services		

Planned Parenthood of So FL & Treasure Coast	3106 20th Street, Vero Beach, FL 32960	(772) 778-0037
The Salvation Army (Okeechobee County)	P.O. Box 1702, Okeechobee, FL 34973	(863) 763-6020
Special Needs		
Deaf Service Center of the Treasure Coast	1016 NE Jensen Beach, Jensen Beach, FL 34957	(772) 460-3692
Substance Abuse		
Breakthrough Recovery Services (Okeechobee)	202 NW 5th Avenue, Okeechobee, FL 34972	(863) 467-2300
Central Florida Treatment Center	1302 Lawnwood Circle, Ste B, Fort Pierce, FL 34950	(772) 468-6800
Faith Farm Ministries	7595 NE 128th Avenue, Okeechobee, FL 34972	(863) 763-4224
Innovative Treatment Services, Inc.	410 NW 3rd Street, Okeechobee, FL 34972	(863) 467-5335
Youth Services		
Children's Home Society	590 NW Peacock Blvd, Ste 9, Port St. Lucie, FL 34986	(772) 344-4020
Children's Services Council of Okeechobee	PO Box 2972, Okeechobee, FL 34974	(863) 462-5000
Early Learning Coalition	10 SE Central Pkwy, Stuart, FL 34994	(772) 359-7342
Economic Opportunity Council Headstart - Lake Side	1798 NW 9th Avenue, Okeechobee, FL 34972	(863) 357-8677
Healthy Start Coalition	P.O. Box 2560, Okeechobee, FL 34973	(863) 462-5877
Hibiscus Children's Center		(800) 403-9311
Okeechobee County School District	700 SW Second Avenue, Okeechobee, FL 34974	(863) 462-5000

The list above contains some of the resources available in Okeechobee County. There may be other organizations that provide the same, similar or different services