

# Pasco County

## Community Health Profile Report 2007



**Pasco County Health Department**



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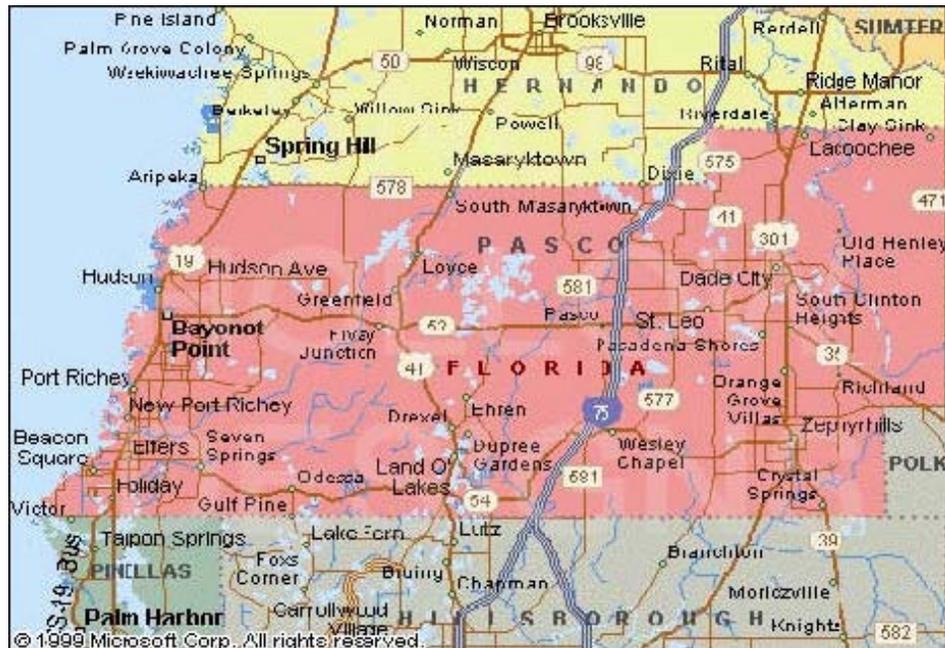
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## Description

Pasco is the 13th largest county in the state of Florida with an estimated population of 450,171 people in 2006 (U.S. Census Bureau). Spread across 745 square miles, Pasco County contains six municipalities: New Port Richey, Port Richey, San Antonio, St. Leo, Zephyrhills and Dade City, the county seat. In addition, the metropolitan areas such as Clearwater, St. Petersburg, and Tampa are less than one hour's drive away.

Beautifully situated on the Gulf of Mexico in the Tampa Bay area, Pasco County is one of eight counties, along with Citrus, Dixie, Hernando, Levy, Jefferson, Taylor, and Wakulla, which make up the "Nature Coast." Graced by beautiful scenery, Florida's "Nature Coast" provides its residents opportunities to dive for scallops, swim with manatees, and visit historic museums.

Figure 1 - Pasco County Map Retrieved from <http://pascocountyfl.net>



## Population Characteristics

Along with a 30.6% population increase from 2000 to 2006 (see Figure 2), the last several decades have seen explosive growth in Pasco County. The county's population is predicted to reach 580,100 people by the year 2030. A substantial number of retirees relocate to the county. Twenty-two percent of Pasco County residents are 65 and older; the state of Florida counts 16.8 percent of its population over the retirement age. Because elderly residents have very specific and distinct health needs, present and future health policies and services provided by the county must take into account the burgeoning elderly populations. Although pre-retirees may and do suffer from chronic illnesses, such cases are more prevalent in elderly populations.

In addition to its high percentage of retirees, Pasco County's pre-retiree group is also experiencing drastic growth, according to Guillermo Angulo, director of environmental health for Pasco County Health Department. Due to the lack of available, affordable housing in the metropolitan areas near Pasco County, a growing number of younger families are establishing their homes in Pasco. The percentage of persons 65 and older in the Pasco County population dropped from 27% to just below 22% from 2000 to 2006 (U.S. Census Bureau). Now, the health department must begin to address the health needs of the younger families moving into the area as well as continue their services to elderly residents.

**Figure 2 - Pasco County Population Trends (2000-2006)**

2000 Population	2006 Population	Net Change	Percent Change, Pasco 2000-2006	Percent Change, State 2000-2006	Population Density (persons/sq. mi.), Pasco 2006	Population Density (persons/sq. mi.), State 2006
344,765	450,171	105,406	30.6	13.2	604.4	335.5

Data from the U.S. Census Bureau

An estimated 147,566 families reside in Pasco County as of 2006 (U.S. Census Bureau). Of these Pasco families, 12.62 percent had a woman serving as a single parent in 2000 (University of Georgia Initiative on Poverty and the

Economy). With a population density of 604.4 people per square mile, Pasco’s population density is nearly 1.8 times more than that of the state of Florida (U.S. Census Bureau). Such statistics suggest that Pasco County is transforming itself from a rural county into one that more closely resembles its neighbors to the south, Pinellas and Hillsborough.

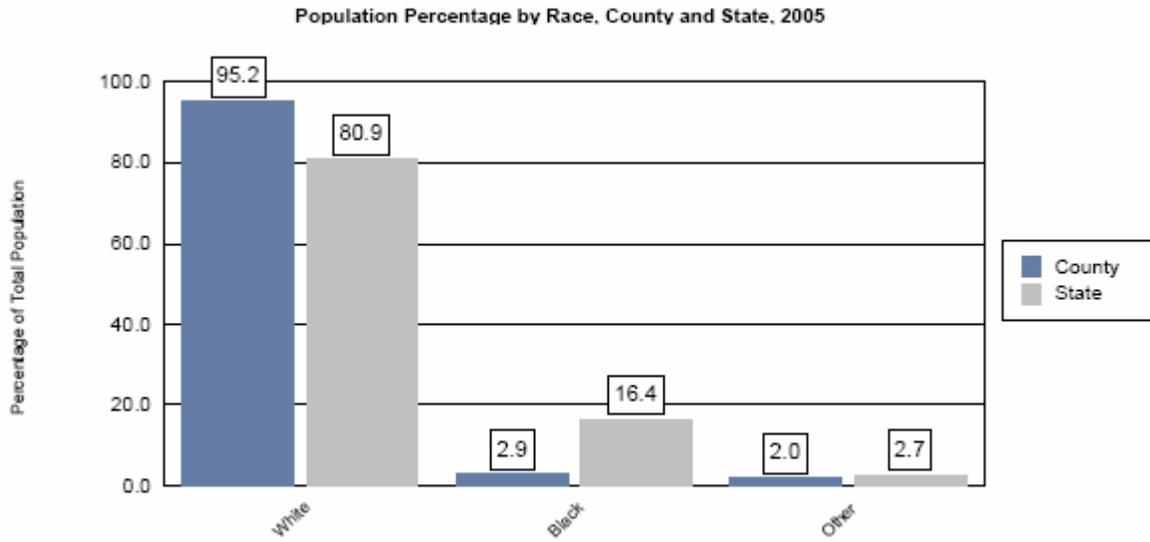
Figure 3 - Pasco County Population: Age & Gender Demographics (2005)

Age group	County - 2005						State - 2005		
	Number			Percentage			Percentage		
	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total
< 5	10,385	10,026	20,411	5.2	4.7	5.0	6.2	5.7	6.0
5-14	26,335	24,970	51,305	13.2	11.8	12.5	13.2	12.1	12.6
15-24	21,775	20,527	42,302	11.0	9.7	10.3	13.6	12.4	13.0
25-44	45,970	46,210	92,180	23.1	21.8	22.4	27.2	25.6	26.4
45-64	50,615	54,680	105,295	25.5	25.8	25.6	24.7	25.4	25.1
65-74	20,690	24,390	45,080	10.4	11.5	11.0	7.7	8.7	8.2
> 74	23,005	31,184	54,189	11.6	14.7	13.2	7.4	10.1	8.8
Total	198,775	211,987	410,762	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0

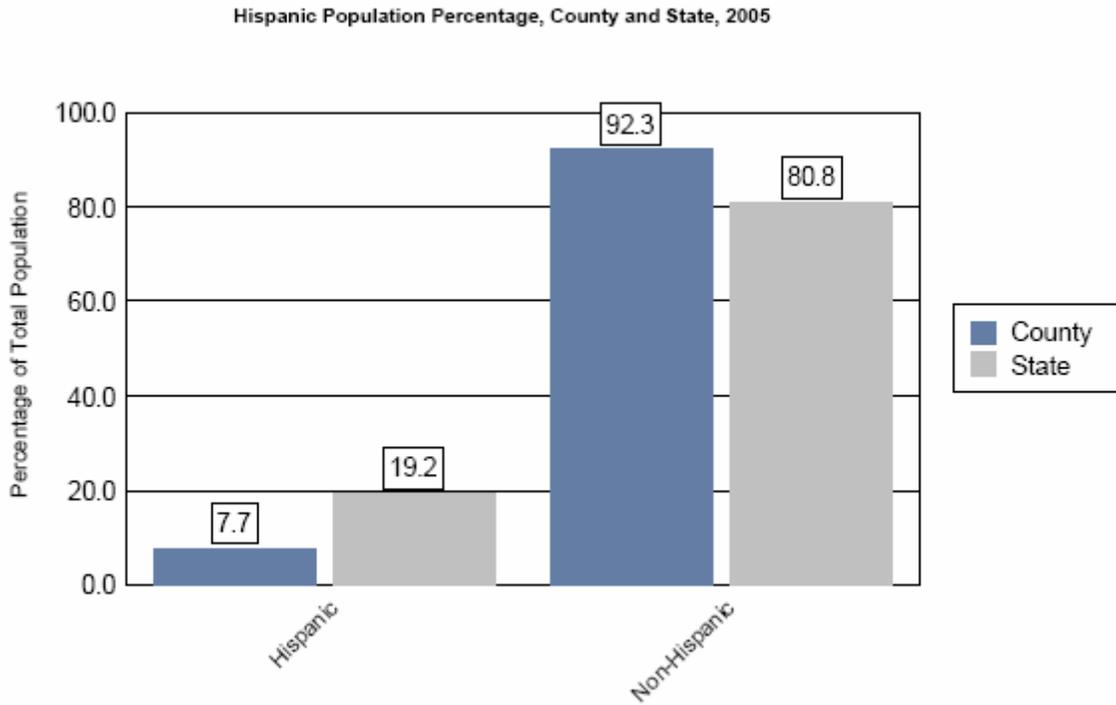
Data Source: Population Estimates from the Executive Office of the Governor

In 2005, Pasco County’s residents were predominantly white, with 95.2 percent of the population identifying as such. Blacks constituted 2.9 percent of the residents, and the remaining 2.0 percent of the population consisted of other minorities (see Figure 4). Although the amount of people of Hispanic descent continues to grow, in 2005, Hispanics regardless of race made up 7.7 percent of the population (compared to 19.2% for all of Florida, see Figure 5). Pasco County differs demographically from the rest of Florida by having smaller minority populations (see Figures 4 and 5).

**Figure 4 - Pasco County and State Race Demographics (2005)**



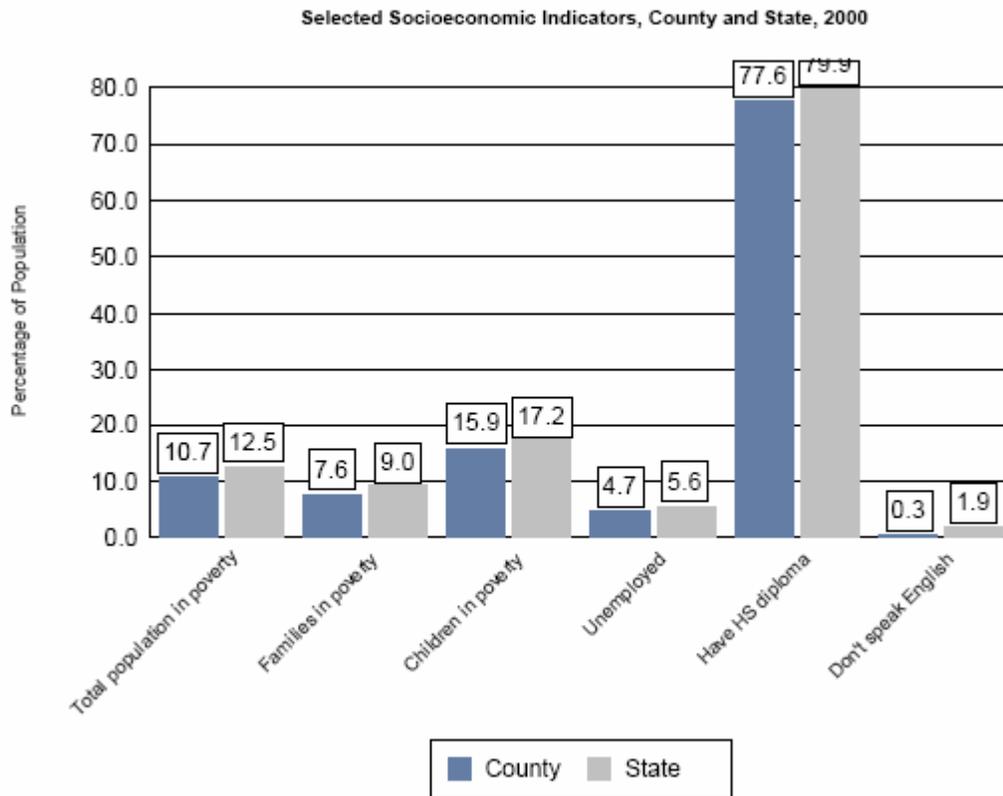
**Figure 5 - Pasco County and State Hispanic Population (2005)**



## Socioeconomic Profile

Pasco County boasts higher employment rates than the state of Florida average (see Figure 6). Among the largest employers and manufacturers in Pasco County are the District School Board of Pasco County, State of Florida Government, the Community Hospital of New Port Richey, Pall Aeropower Corporation, Zephyrhills Spring Water Company, and APAC-Southeast, Inc. (Pasco County Government, 2004). The retail, construction, manufacturing and agriculture sectors provide most of the county's employment (Pasco County Government, 2004).

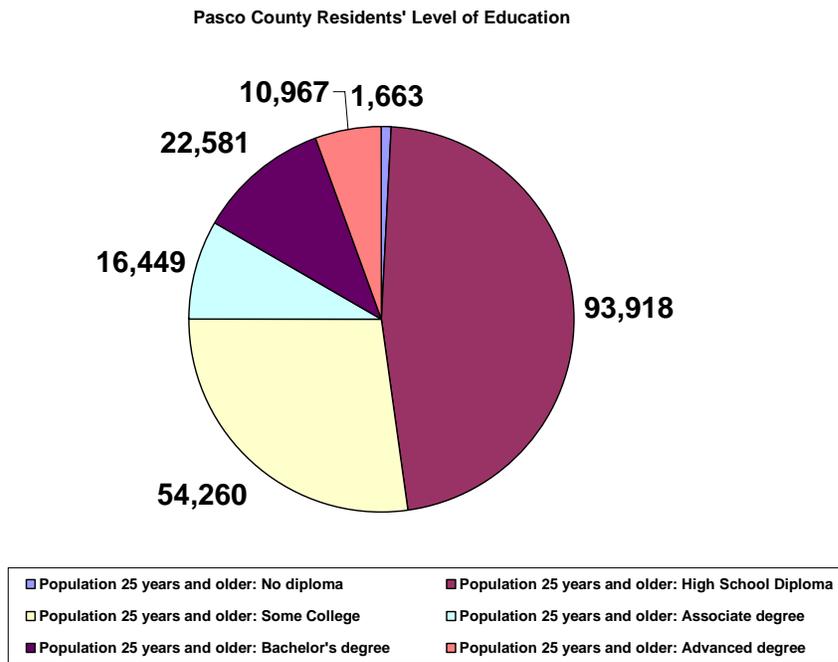
**Figure 6 - Pasco County and State Socioeconomic Indicators (2000)**



Despite the relatively full employment rate, the number of individuals with a high school diploma is still lower in Pasco County in comparison to the state average. Even though the number of individuals twenty-five years old and older who have high school diplomas increased by nearly 10 percent in the last

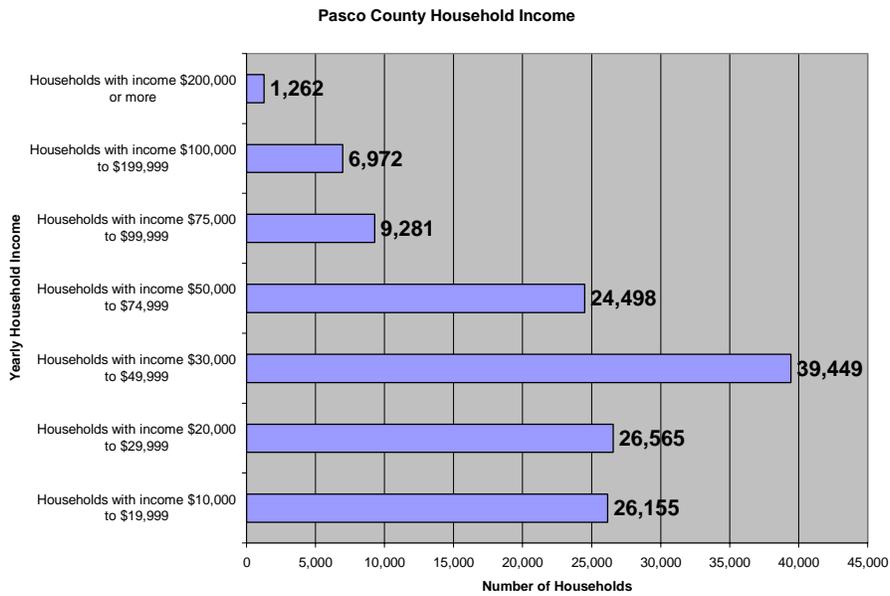
decade, Pasco County still lags slightly behind the overall state average. According to census statistics compiled by the University of Georgia, there are 22,581 individuals in Pasco County who have attended college and received their Bachelor's degrees (see Figure 7). An additional 54,260 people had attended some college as of 2000.

Figure 7 - Pasco County Residents' Level of Education (2000)



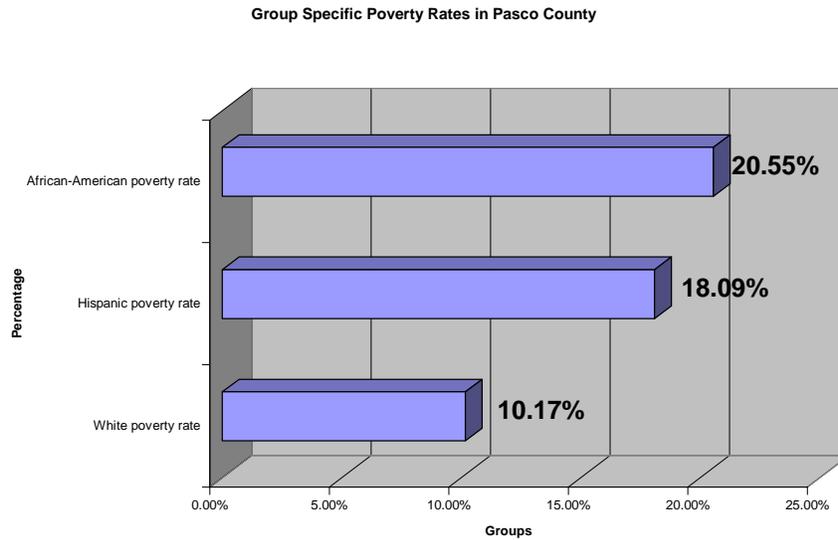
The median yearly household income in Pasco County in 2006 was \$41,939 (U.S. Census Bureau). Pasco County consists of 147,566 households, constituting 2.33 percent of the total number of families in Florida (The University of Georgia Initiative on Poverty and the Economy, 2003). According to the U.S. Census Bureau, 82.4 percent of homes in Pasco County are owned by the families who occupy the homes. The median value of homes was \$79,600 in 2000. Mobile homes represent 25.16 percent of the homes in Pasco County. Individuals or families who do not own their homes pay an average monthly rent of \$552.72 (The University of Georgia Initiative on Poverty and the Economy).

**Figure 8 - Pasco County Residents' Yearly Household Income (2000)**



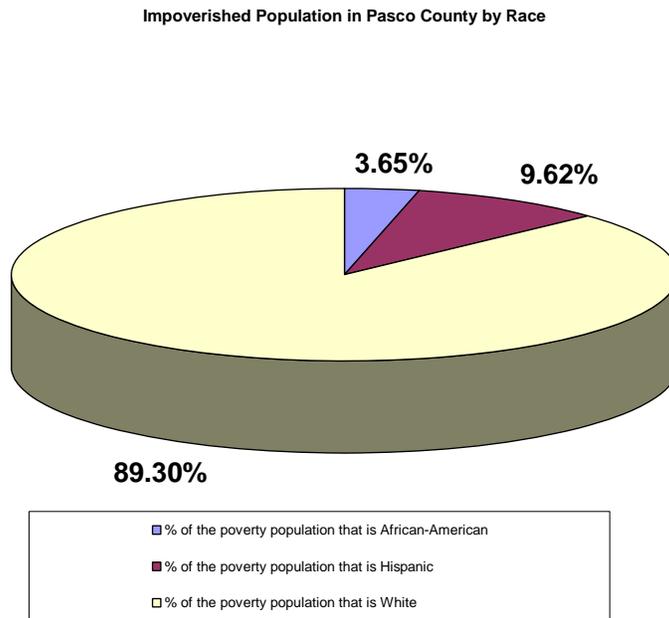
Pasco County residents avoid poverty (total population in poverty, the total number of families in poverty, and the total number of children in poverty) at better rates than the state of Florida as whole. On the other hand, people making below 200% of the federal poverty level constitute 31.5% of Pasco's population, in contrast to 26.3% of Floridians. The University of Georgia has performed extensive work to provide quantitative values on poverty in several states through their Initiative on Poverty and the Economy project. This project also provides information on group-specific poverty rates in Pasco County. In Pasco, 36,201 persons are living in poverty, which results in a county poverty rate of 10.67 percent. According to the data, 10.17 percent of whites, 20.55 percent of African-Americans, and 18.09 percent of Hispanics live in poverty (see Figure 9). When looking at all of the individuals who are living in poverty in Pasco County, the University of Georgia found that almost 90 percent are white. African-Americans only contribute 3.65 percent to the entire poverty population, and Hispanics contribute 9.62 percent (see Figure 10).

**Figure 9 - Group-Specific Poverty Rates in Pasco County (2002)**



Pasco has 7,559 families living in poverty (The University of Georgia Initiative on Poverty and the Economy). Although this number is alarming, the family poverty rate of 7.61 percent is lower than the state of Florida's rate of 9.04 percent. The poverty rate for children is 15.87 percent. The elderly poverty rate, 7.66 percent, is roughly half of the child poverty rate.

Figure 10 - Population in Poverty by Race in Pasco County (2000)



Since the county's residents are primarily white, only a small portion of the residents, relative to the rest of the state of Florida, do not speak English. In 2000, 10.3% of Pasco County residents over the age of five spoke a language other than English at home, as opposed to 23.1% of people in the state of Florida. In spite of this low number, Pasco County Health Department programs and agencies such as WIC are in need of medical translators as these services may not only target the low income white majority, but also Hispanic and Creole-speaking populations.

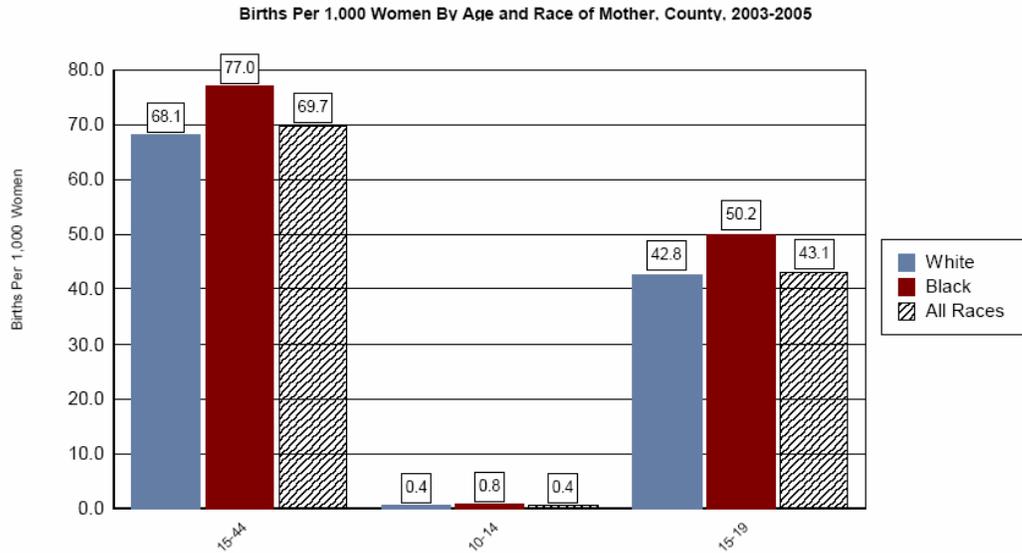
## Fertility and Maternal and Infant Health

From the years 2003 to 2005, the yearly average number of births from Pasco County women residents was 4,101 (see Figure 11). Pasco has one of the largest birth rates, in the fourth quartile, in the state of Florida. According to CHARTS, Pasco County African Americans have higher birth rates in all age categories than white residents (see Figure 11). African American women were also more likely to be unwed at the time of the child's birth than white women (see Figure 11). Unwed women in Pasco County produced 35.3 percent of all births in 2003-2005, a slight increase from the 2001-2003 reporting period. The teen (15-19) birth rate in Pasco slightly exceeds the state average, but the repeat teen birth rate percentage is exactly the same when comparing Pasco County to Florida.

**Figure 11 - Total Births and Age-Specific Mother Births (2003-2005)**

Indicator (3-YR Figures, 2003-05)	COUNTY								STATE
	White**	Quartile	Black**	Quartile	Hispanic	Quartile	All Races	Quartile	
<b>Births</b>									
Total Births (3-yr annual avg.)	4,100.7	4	171.0	3	620.7	4	4,462.3	4	
Births to Mothers ages 15-44, per 1,000*	68.1	3	77.0	4			69.7	3	63.6
Births to Mothers ages 10-14, per 1,000*	0.4	3	0.8	2			0.4	2	0.7
Births to Mothers ages 15-19, per 1,000*	42.8	2	50.2	1			43.1	2	42.0
Percent of Births to Unwed Mothers	35.0	2	54.8	1	38.9	1	35.3	1	41.4

**Figure 12 - Pasco County Birth Rate by Age and Race of Mother (2003-2005)**



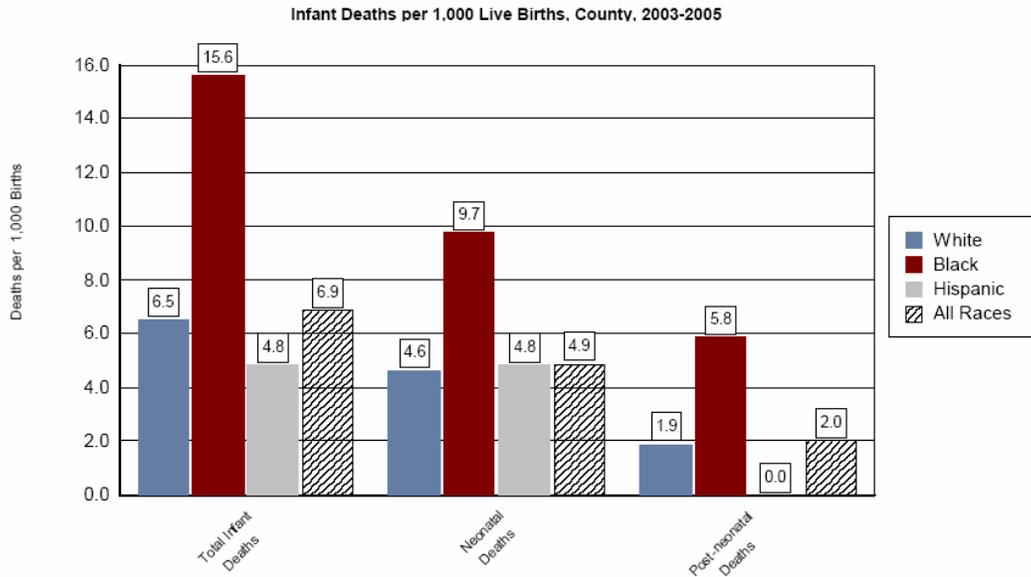
*Infant Deaths*

Neonatal and postneonatal deaths in Pasco County are consistently higher than the state infant death rates. Interestingly, more babies of black descent die before they are 27 days old than do Hispanic and white babies. There is also an inequality in the number of postneonatal (28-364 days old) deaths between blacks, Hispanics, and whites. Black postneonatal death rates are 5.8 per 1,000 births, compared to the much lower 1.9 per 1,000 white births and 0.0 per 1,000 Hispanic births. Such disparity is certainly reason for alarm.

**Figure 13 - Infant Mortality, Pasco County and State (2003-2005)**

	White		Black		Hispanic		All Races		
	Percent	Quartile	Percent	Quartile	Percent	Quartile	Percent	Quartile	
<b>Infant Deaths</b>									
Infant Deaths (0-364 days) per 1,000 Births	6.5	3	15.6	3	4.8	2	6.9	2	7.2
Neonatal Deaths (0-27 days) per 1,000 Births	4.6	4	9.7	3	4.8	3	4.9	3	4.6
Postneonatal Deaths (28-364 days) per 1,000 Births	1.9	2	5.8	3	0.0	1	2.0	1	2.6

Figure 14 - Infant Mortality Rate by Race in Pasco County (2003-2005)



Prenatal care to pregnant mothers would certainly be one step to help reduce infant mortality. In spite of the higher rates of prenatal mortality found in Pasco County, 85.6 percent of mothers are receiving prenatal care within their first trimester (see Figure 15), with some differences by race noted. Though 85.9 percent of pregnant white mothers and 81.3 percent of pregnant black mothers receive prenatal care by the first trimester, only 78.5 percent of Hispanic mothers receive necessary prenatal care by the first trimester (see Figure 15). Furthermore, 3.6 percent of Hispanic mothers and 3.8 percent of Black mothers obtain prenatal care late in their pregnancies or receive no prenatal care at all. Despite these similarities, Hispanics and African Americans have substantially different infant mortality rates, so prenatal care alone cannot account for the disparities discovered.

Figure 15 - Prenatal Care by Race in Pasco County (2003-2005)

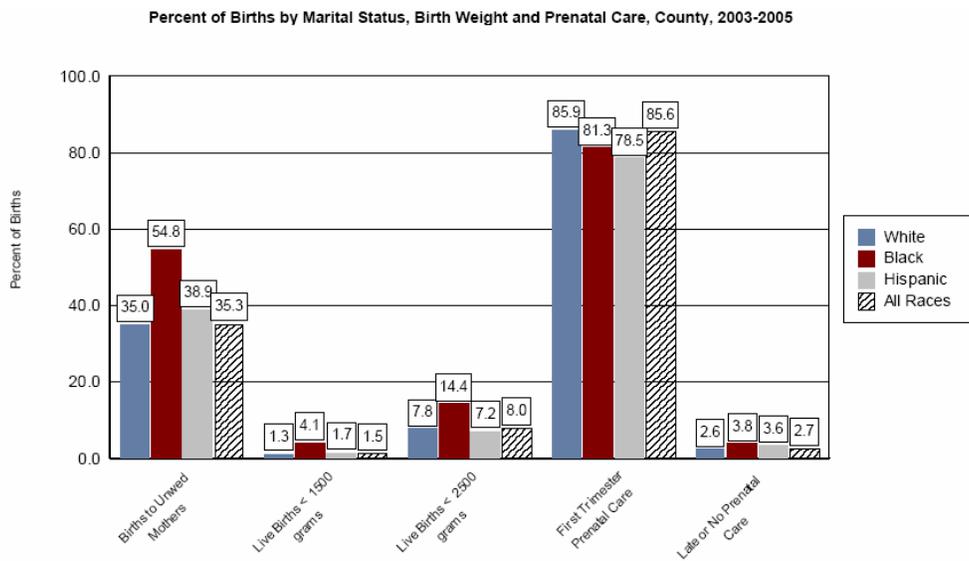
Prenatal Care	White		Black		Hispanic		All Races	
	Percent	Quartile	Percent	Quartile	Percent	Quartile	Percent	Quartile
Percent of Births with 1st Trimester Prenatal Care	85.9	3	81.3	4	78.5	3	85.6	4
Percent of Births with Late or No Prenatal Care	2.6	2	3.8	2	3.6	2	2.7	1

Data Source: Florida Department of Health  
 \*Hispanic data not available after 1999  
 \*\*Non-Hispanic

**Important note regarding prenatal care data**

Starting in 2004, trimester prenatal care began is calculated as the time elapsed from the date of the last menstrual period to the date of the first prenatal care visit. Prior to 2004, these data were obtained by direct question that noted the trimester the mother began prenatal care. Consequently, these data are not comparable to that from prior years. Births with unknown information as to when prenatal care began are excluded from the denominator.

Figure 16 - Summary of Maternal and Child Health in Pasco County (2003-2005)



The effects of prenatal care show similarly conflicting results when applied to birth weight. Fetuses that are not properly taken care of during pregnancy may be born prematurely and severely underweight. Infants born to black mothers, who are less likely than white mothers to receive prenatal care, are more often born underweight than white babies (see Figure 17). Hispanic mothers are also less likely to get prenatal care, but have underweight births at rates similar to (and occasionally better than) white mothers. Cultural and other factors may be involved. For instance, chronological spacing between

births may produce healthier babies. In Pasco County, 37.8 percent of mothers in 2002 properly spaced their pregnancies compared to 36.3 percent of mothers in the state of Florida, according to the Five-Year Plan for Prevention of Child Abuse, Neglect and Abandonment - Pasco and Pinellas Counties: 2005-2009 (2005). The slightly better rates of pregnancy spacing may correlate to Pasco's slightly better than state average rates of infant deaths (6.9/1,000 for Pasco vs. 7.2/1,000 for the state).

**Figure 17 - Low Birth Weight Babies, Pasco County and State (2003-2005)**

	White		Black		Hispanic		All Races	
	Percent	Quartile	Percent	Quartile	Percent	Quartile	Percent	Quartile
<b>Low Birth Weight</b>								
Percent of Births < 1500 Grams	1.3	4	4.1	4	1.7	4	1.5	3
Percent of Births < 2500 Grams	7.8	3	14.4	3	7.2	3	8.0	2

Child abuse and maltreatment also plays an obvious role in the health of children. The Five-Year Plan for Prevention of Child Abuse, Neglect and Abandonment - Pasco and Pinellas Counties: 2005-2009 studied weight data for children beyond their birth weights. According to their findings, 4.2 percent of Pasco County children are in the lowest 5th percentile for their height-to-weight ratio. This height-to-weight indicator for child health is better for Pasco County than Pinellas County, which has 6.6 percent of children in the lowest 5th percentile for height-to-weight ratio. Additional data indicate that the child maltreatment rate is 10.4 percent for Pasco County children (Five-Year Plan for Prevention of Child Abuse, Neglect and Abandonment - Pasco and Pinellas Counties: 2005-2009 (2005)). The rate for child maltreatment in Pasco County is significantly lower than Pinellas' County rate of 25.4 percent. Pinellas County has a higher re-abuse rate of 9.2 percent compared to the 8.5 percent of children who have ever been abused in Pasco County who then experience re-abuse within six months.

## Morbidity

In order to assess the levels of morbidity in Pasco County, prevalence and incidence rates of disease, injury, and suicide were collected. Because of the large numbers of elderly people living in Pasco County, morbidity levels due to coronary heart disease, stroke, congestive heart failure, cancers, and diabetes are high, but most are already below the U.S. Healthy People 2010 Goal (see Figure 18).

Figure 18 - Pasco County Chronic Disease Profile (2001-2005)

<b>Pasco County Chronic Disease Profile</b>						
<b>Indicator</b>	<b>Year(s)</b>	<b>Avg. Annual Number of Events</b>	<b>Age-Adjusted Rate<sup>1</sup></b>	<b>Quartile<sup>2</sup></b>	<b>State Age-Adjusted Rate</b>	<b>U.S. Healthy People 2010 Goal<sup>3</sup></b>
<b>Coronary Heart Disease</b>						
Deaths	2003-05	1,217	159.5	3	146.2	162
Hospitalizations	2003-05	4,899	787.1	3	674.9	
<b>Stroke</b>						
Deaths	2003-05	282	36.5	2	39.6	50
Hospitalizations	2003-05	2,029	300.2	2	318.9	
<b>Heart Failure</b>						
Deaths	2003-05	42	4.9	1	7	
Hospitalizations from congestive heart failure	2003-05	1,977	273.9	2	316.8	
<b>Lung Cancer</b>						
Deaths	2003-05	430	63	3	51.9	43.3
Incidence	2001-03	522	82.1	NA	72	
Percent of Adults who currently smoke	2002		26.00%	3	22.20%	12%
<b>Colorectal Cancer</b>						
Deaths	2003-05	129	18.1	3	16	13.7
Incidence	2001-03	347	51.7	NA	50.1	
Percent of Adults 50 and over who have ever had a sigmoidoscopy or colonoscopy	2002		50.10%	3	52.60%	50%
Percent of Adults 50 and over who have had a blood stool test in past two years	2002		41.80%	1	33.50%	50%
<b>Breast Cancer</b>						
Deaths	2003-05	70	21.1	2	22.4	21.3
Incidence	2001-03	323	110.1	NA	116.7	

Indicator	Year(s)	Avg.		Quartile <sup>2</sup>		U.S.
	Annual			State	Healthy	28.2
	Number	Age-		Age-	People	
	Events	of	Adjusted	Rate	Adjusted	2010
		Rate <sup>1</sup>		Rate	Goal <sup>3</sup>	2
Incidence	2001-03	21	10.4	NA	9.8	
Percent of adult (18+) women who have had a pap test in past three years	2002		82.40%	2	82.20%	90%
<b>Skin Cancer</b>						
Deaths	2003-05	19	3.4	3	2.8	2.3
Incidence	2001-03	91	18.2	NA	15.6	
<b>Chronic Lower Respiratory Diseases (CLRD)</b>						
Deaths	2003-05	361	47.9	3	37.9	62.3
CLRD Hospitalizations	2003-05	2,091	381.1	3	354.6	
Percent of Adults (18+) with asthma	2002		13.20%	3	10.70%	
Asthma Hospitalizations <sup>4</sup>	2003-05	3,321	753.6	4	666.4	
<b>Diabetes</b>						
Deaths	2003-05	194	28.5	3	21.2	46
Hospitalizations <sup>4</sup>	2003-05	10,935	1,840.40	2	1,890.60	
Hospitalizations from amputation due to diabetes <sup>4</sup>	2003-05	139	24.7	2	24.6	18
Percent of Adults who have ever been told by a doctor that they have diabetes	2002		12.40%	4	8.20%	

As will be mentioned in the *Mortality* section of this report, cancer is among the leading causes of death among Pasco County residents. A close examination of CHARTS data reveals that the incidences of breast and prostate cancer are higher for the county than the state, although rates at both levels are undergoing a declining trend since 2000 (see Figures 19 and 20). In addition, although the incidence of cervical cancer has gone through some variations through the years, the county's rate is roughly the same as Florida's incidence rate (see Figure 21).

Figure 19 - Pasco County Breast Cancer Incidence (2004)

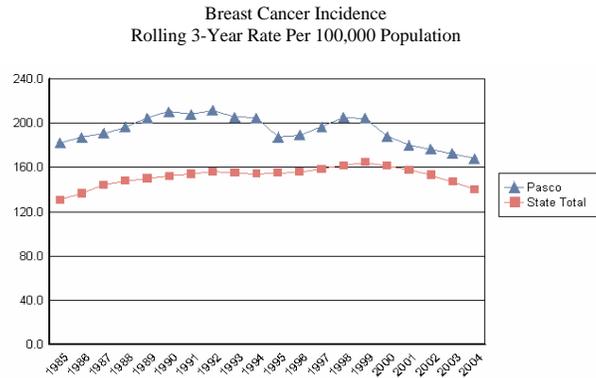


Figure 20 - Pasco County Prostate Cancer Incidence (2004)

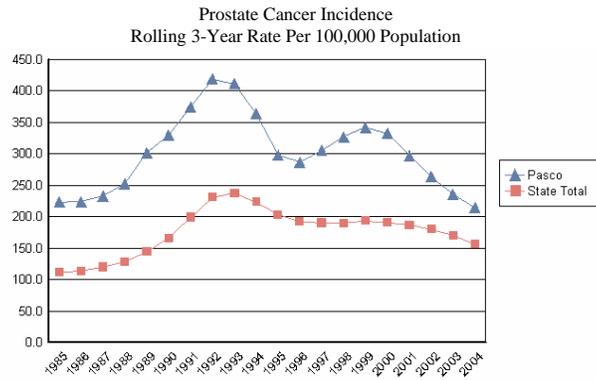
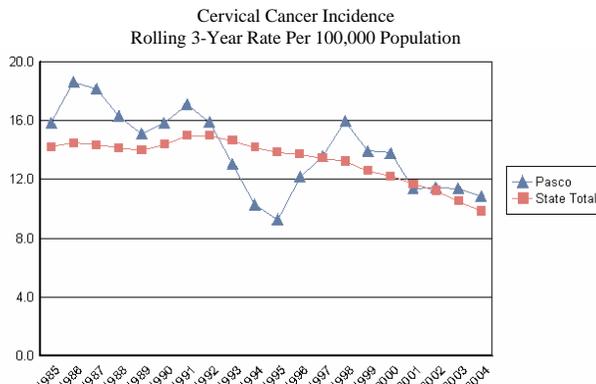


Figure 21 - Pasco County Cervical Cancer Incidence (2004)



Communicable diseases also contribute to morbidity within a population. Pasco County consistently has lower rates of sexually transmitted diseases, such as syphilis, gonorrhea, and chlamydia, than the state of Florida. In fact, Pasco county residents contract sexually transmitted diseases at a rate less than half of that as the average Floridian (see Figure 22).

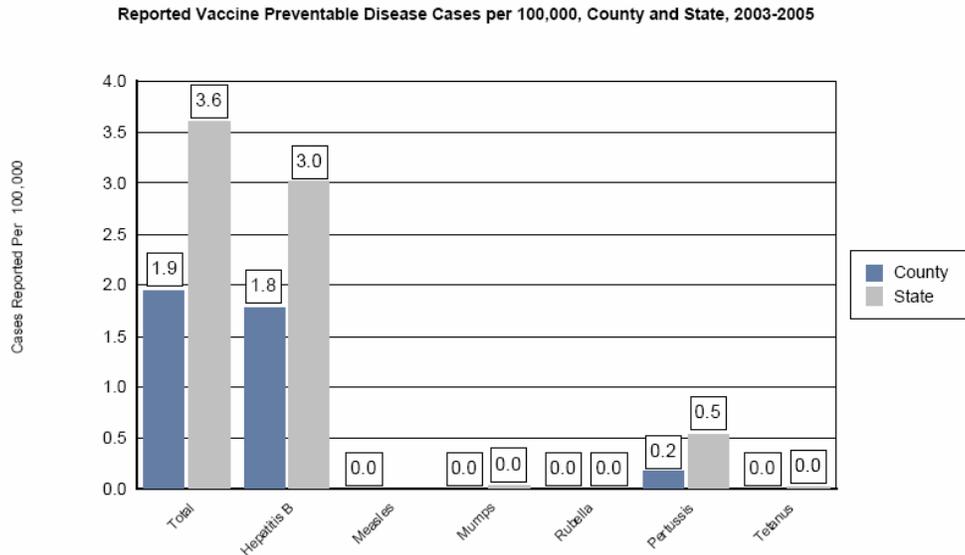
**Figure 22 - Pasco County Communicable Disease Rates (2003-2005)**

	COUNTY			STATE
	Number of Cases (annual avg.) 2003-2005	3-Yr Rate per 100,000 2003-2005	Quartile	3-Yr Rate per 100,000
				2003-2005
<b>Sexually Transmitted Diseases (STD)</b>				
Total Gonorrhea, Chlamydia & Infectious Syphilis	595.7	151.3	1	356.5
Infectious Syphilis Cases	2.7	0.7	3	4.0
Gonorrhea Cases	153.0	38.9	1	109.4
Chlamydia	440.0	111.7	1	243.0
<b>Vaccine Preventable Diseases</b>				
Vaccine Preventable Disease Rate for All Ages	7.7	1.9	2	3.6
Hepatitis B Cases	7.0	1.8	2	3.0
Mumps	0.0	0.0	1	0.0
Rubella	0.0	0.0	1	0.0
Pertussis	0.7	0.2	3	0.5
Tetanus	0.0	0.0	1	0.0
<b>AIDS and Other Diseases</b>				
AIDS Cases	40.7	10.3	2	26.9
Meningococcal Meningitis	1.7	0.4	4	0.1
Hepatitis A Cases	5.0	1.3	3	1.7
Tuberculosis Cases	10.0	2.5	2	6.1

Data Source: Division of Disease Control, Florida Department of Health

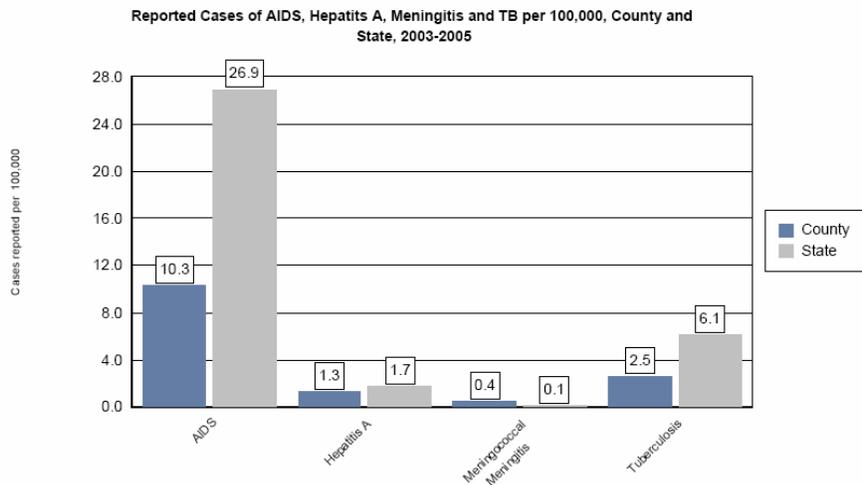
Vaccine preventable diseases include hepatitis B, measles, mumps, rubella, pertussis, and tetanus. Obtaining the appropriate immunizations after birth or as needed can prevent the incidence and decrease the prevalence of these diseases. Pasco County had a zero incidence rate for the years 2003 to 2005 for measles, mumps, rubella, and tetanus. The county also had lower rates of pertussis (0.2 per 100,000 individuals, in contrast to the 0.5 per 100,000 individuals for the state). Furthermore, 94% of Pasco kindergarteners have been immunized, a very slight improvement over the rate for Florida of 93.7%.

**Figure 23 - Pasco County Prevalence of Reportable Vaccine Preventable Disease Cases (2003-2005)**



Rates of other communicable diseases suggest that Pasco County residents are less likely to contract them than other Florida residents. During 2003 to 2005, Pasco County had a low rate of tuberculosis with a 3-year rate of 2.5 per 100,000. AIDS 3-year rates were also significantly lower than the state (10.3 per 100,000 people for Pasco County compared to 26.9 per 100,000 for Florida). However, Pasco County reported higher rates for meningococcal meningitis than the average statewide (see Figures 22 and 24).

**Figure 24 - AIDS, Hepatitis A, Meningitis, and TB (2003-2005)**



To get a sense of the residents' own perceptions about their health, researchers will often ask people directly about their concerns and beliefs. The Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System (BRFSS) survey executed this strategy when they interviewed 505 Pasco County residents in 2002. According to the survey, 20.4 percent of the Pasco residents interviewed rated their health status as fair or poor (see Figure 25).

**Figure 25 - BRFSS Survey of Pasco and State - Health Status (2002)**

Health Status	Percent	95% CI (+/-)	Quartile	State percent	95% CI (
Adults mostly sitting/standing at job	52.1	7.9	1	62.8	1.7
Adults with health status "Fair" or "Poor"	20.4	4.3	3	16.7	1.0

Morbidity also encompasses a number of social and mental health indicators. For instance, alcohol-related motor vehicle crashes are one of the more preventable causes of morbidity and mortality. Pasco County ranked in the 26th to 50th percentile for the number of alcohol-related motor vehicle crashes, but the number of alcohol-related motor vehicle crashes and crashes that resulted in injuries was higher than the state rate (see Figure 26).

**Figure 26 - Alcohol-related Motor Vehicle Traffic Crashes, Pasco County and State, 3-Yr Rate Per 100,000 (2003-2005)**

	County	State
<b>Alcohol-related Motor Vehicle Crashes</b>		
Alcohol-related Motor Vehicle Traffic Crashes	561.7	142.6
Alcohol-related Motor Vehicle Traffic Crash Injuries	536.0	136.1
Alcohol-related Motor Vehicle Traffic Crash Deaths	32.0	8.1

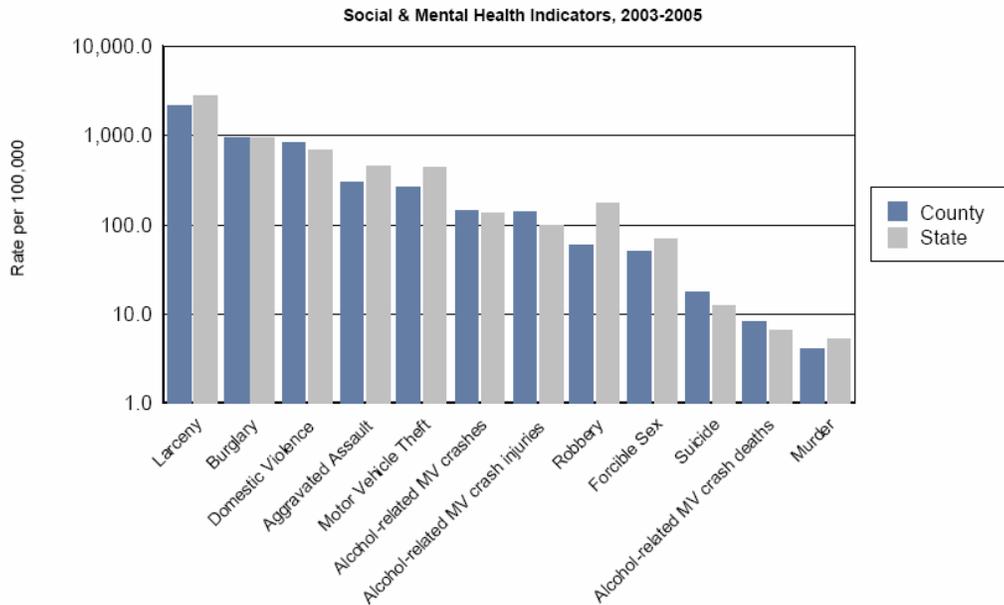
Suicide may also be considered a preventable cause of death if one considers the effects of mental health services in lowering a population's propensity for suicide. In 2003-2005, Pasco County had one of the state's highest age-adjusted suicide 3-year death rates—17.4 cases per 100,000—in the worst quartile (see Figure 27). The county also has considerably higher rates for domestic violence

than the state (see Figures 27 and 28).

**Figure 27 - Suicide, Crime and Domestic Violence, Pasco County and State, 3-Yr Rate Per 100,000 (2003-2005)**

		County		State
<b>Suicide</b>				
Age-Adjusted Suicide 3-Year Death Rate	69.7	17.4	4	12.6
<b>Crime and Domestic Violence</b>				
Larceny	8,555.0	2,172.5	3	2,764.9
Burglary	3,682.0	935.0	3	950.1
Total Domestic Violence Offenses	3,303.7	839.0	4	683.5
Aggravated Assault	1,178.0	299.1	2	458.4
Motor Vehicle Theft	1,034.3	262.7	3	433.8
Robbery	229.3	58.2	2	173.5
Forcible Sex Offenses	199.7	50.7	2	70.9
Murder	16.0	4.1	3	5.2

**Figure 28 - Social and Mental Health Indicators, Pasco County and State (2003-2005)**



According to the results compiled from the Florida Youth Substance Abuse Survey (FYSAS), Pasco County students also tended to exceed the state averages for alcohol, tobacco, and illicit drug use. In 2006, more Pasco County students than students in Florida reported that in the last 30 days they had used alcohol, cigarettes, smokeless tobacco, marijuana, inhalants, or any illicit drug. Despite the higher than average rates of use, in most categories, student experience with drugs, tobacco, and alcohol have been on the wane. Percentages for use of alcohol, cigarettes, and marijuana all dropped from 2002 to 2006. Binge drinking and inhalant abuses were the only behaviors surveyed that had shown increases from 2002 to 2006. When the FYSAS determined lifetime use of selected drugs among students, the results proved quite similar. Pasco County students had ingested alcohol, tobacco, and illicit drugs at rates slightly above their Floridian peers. Again, however, both at the statewide and Pasco County levels, the percentage of students who admitted to lifetime experience with alcohol, smokeless tobacco, cigarettes, marijuana, and other illicit drugs was dropping from 2002 to 2006. Somewhat contradictorily, however, the percentage of students responding to the FYSAS that they had been drunk or high at school increases from 2002 to 2006. Finally, among those children admitted to substance abuse treatment in Pasco County, marijuana was the most preferred intoxicant, followed closely by alcohol. Other drugs were chosen as preferred substantially less often. In Pasco County, trends for student use of drugs have thus been declining overall, but still remain higher than statewide averages.

## Mortality

CHARTS data has identified the major causes of mortality among Pasco County residents as heart disease, cancer, chronic lower respiratory disease, strokes motor vehicle crashes, diabetes, cirrhosis, pneumonia, and HIV/AIDS (see Figure 29). As is to be expected in a county with an older population, Pasco exceeds the state average in total deaths and deaths caused by heart disease, cancer, chronic lower respiratory disease, and diabetes. Cirrhosis and motor vehicle crashes also claim more lives in Pasco County than would be expected by state averages. Impressively, especially considering the large elderly population, Pasco has lower than average rates of stroke and pneumonia/influenza deaths than the state of Florida as a whole.

Figure 29 - Mortality, Pasco County and State (2003-2005)

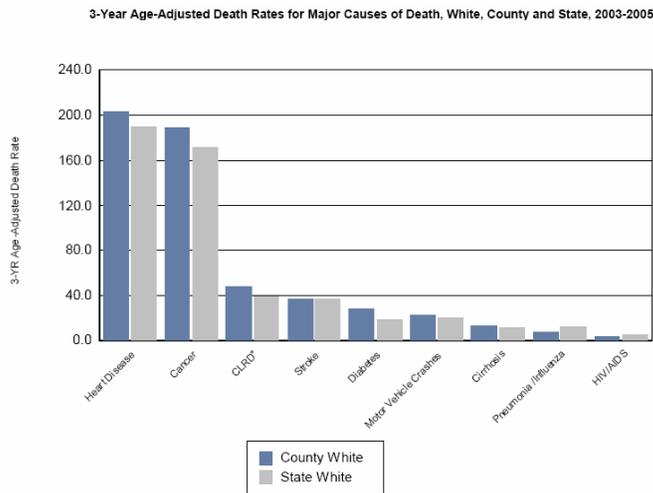
Major Causes of Death									
Resident 3-Year Age-Adjusted Death Rates 2003-05 by Cause	COUNTY						STATE		
	White	Quartile	Black	Quartile	All Races	Quartile	White	Black	All Races
Total Deaths	789.3	2	1,005.1	2	789.1	2	712.9	941.8	734.4
Heart Disease	202.8	2	210.9	1	202.3	2	190.0	246.5	194.8
Cancer	188.7	3	195.9	2	188.3	3	171.3	198.4	173.1
CLRD*	48.1	2	59.5	4	47.9	3	38.9	25.6	37.9
Stroke	36.2	2	75.6	3	36.5	2	36.7	71.0	39.6
Diabetes	28.0	3	82.0	4	28.5	3	18.8	49.5	21.2
Motor Vehicle Crashes	22.4	2	24.4	3	22.3	2	19.3	17.9	18.7
Cirrhosis	13.5	3	7.0	3	13.2	3	11.0	6.8	10.4
Pneumonia/Influenza	7.5	1	9.2	2	7.4	1	11.8	15.6	12.1
AIDS/HIV	4.1	3	13.7	1	4.2	2	4.6	40.5	9.9

Data Source: Florida Office of Vital Statistics  
\*Chronic Lower Respiratory Disease

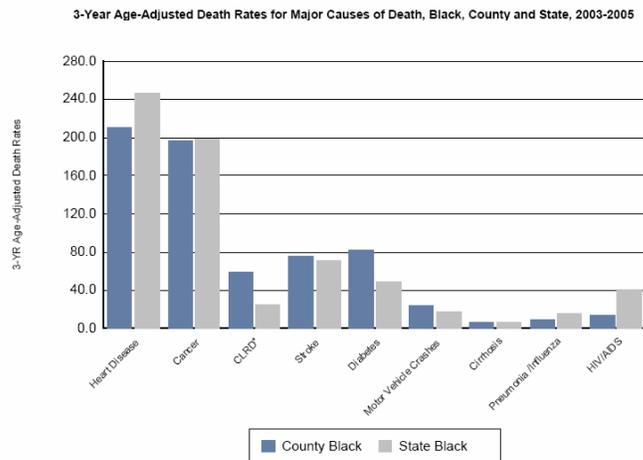
To examine causes of mortality by race yields some similarities and a host of disparities. For both whites and blacks, heart disease and cancer are

the leading causes of death. However, the mortality rate among black residents due to diabetes is 2.9 times greater than whites, due to stroke 2.1 times more than whites, and due to HIV/AIDS 3.3 times more than whites (see Figures 29 and 31). All three of these differences have been closing since 2001-2003, but substantial room for improvement exists. White residents die from cirrhosis at a rate 1.9 times greater than black residents of Pasco; cirrhosis represents the only recorded cause of death that claims a greater rate of white residents.

**Figure 30 - Mortality by Race, White, Pasco County and State (2003-2005)**



**Figure 31 - Mortality by Race, Black, Pasco County and State (2003-2005)**

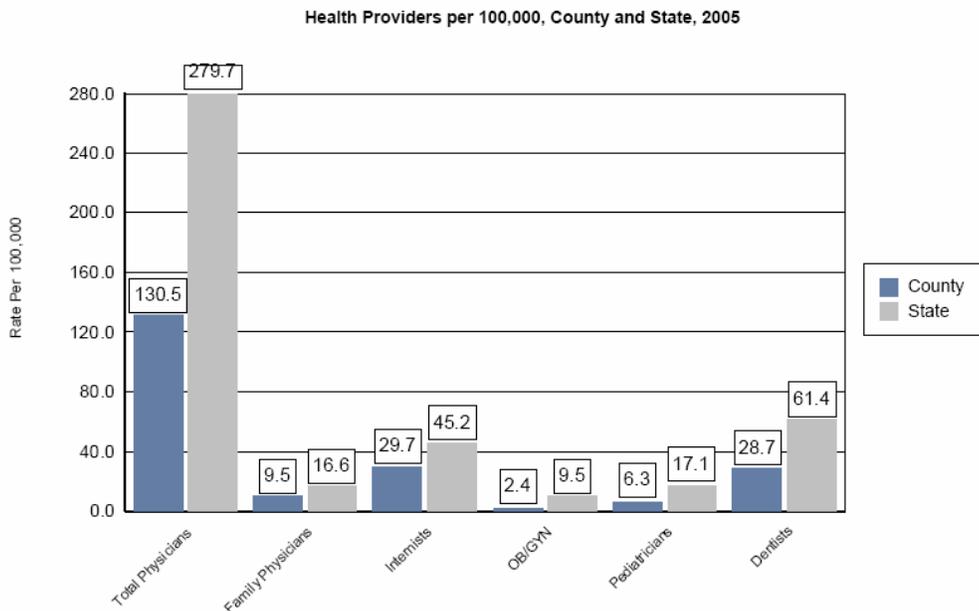


## Health Care Resources and Health Care Utilization

Because Pasco County is growing so explosively, it is not a surprise that the number of health care providers is not keeping step with the population. As this section will demonstrate, Pasco County residents may not choose from as many practitioners or health department employees as much of the state may. For instance, the rate of licensed dentists in Pasco lags far behind the overall rate for Florida, which may explain why the number of people who have visited a dentist for a teeth cleaning is lower than the state average (see Figures 32 and 52).

Figure 32 - Pasco County and State Health Providers (2005)

	COUNTY			STATE
	Number 2005	Rate per 100,000 2005	Quartile 2005	Rate per 100,000 2005
<b>Providers*</b>				
Total Licensed Dentists (Fiscal Year)	118	28.7	3	61.4
Total Licensed Physicians (Fiscal Year)	536	130.5	2	279.7
Total Licensed Family Practice Physicians (Fiscal Year)	39	9.5	2	16.6
Total Licensed Internists (Fiscal Year)	122	29.7	3	45.2
Total Licensed OB/GYN (Fiscal Year)	10	2.4	2	9.5
Total Licensed Pediatricians (Fiscal Year)	26	6.3	2	17.1



The county also has lower rates than the state in the number of total physicians, whether they are family practitioners, pediatricians or internists (see Figures 32). There are only 2.4 obstetricians/gynecologists per 100,000 people in Pasco County compared to 9.5 per 100,000 for the state (see Figures). This lack of available obstetricians and gynecologists in the county may suggest why only 1,515 of 3,924 births to Pasco County residents were delivered in Pasco County hospital facilities, according to ACHA statistics from 2001-2003. The remaining 2,409 deliveries may be occurring in hospitals, such as Tampa General Hospital or Suncoast Hospital, in neighboring counties.

Furthermore, the Pasco County Health Department (PCHD) has fewer resources to invest in maintaining public health as a means of making up for the practitioner shortage. The PCHD may be found in the lowest quartile with only 46.6 full-time employees per 100,000, in contrast to the state's 61.4 FTEs per 100,000. Also, the PCHD spends almost \$1 million less per 100,000 residents than the state (see Figure 33).

**Figure 33** - Pasco County and State Health Department Employees and Spending, Rate per 100,000 (2005)

	Pasco		State	
County Health Department				
County Public Health Department Full-Time Employees	192	46.6	1	61.0
County Public Health Department Expenditures	10,365,611	2,523,532.4	1	3,849,945.9

To determine if the seeming lack of health care providers in Pasco County resulted in residents going underserved, the BFRSS asked people about their medical care. Perhaps counter intuitively, more individuals did not have a personal health care provider in the state overall, 23.9 percent, than in Pasco County, 22.7 percent (see Figure 34). Furthermore, the percentage of individuals in Pasco County who did not have health care coverage, 17.7 percent, was lower than the state average of 18.7 percent. According to *A Profile of Uninsured Floridians Findings from the 2004 Florida Health Insurance Study* (2004), 5.6 percent of the total state residents under the age of 65 who lack health insurance reside in District 8, which comprises Pasco, Hernando,

and Polk counties. At least Pasco County residents do not have to spend for medical care at the level of other Floridians. The average medical expenditures per household in Pasco reach \$3,082 per year, as opposed other Floridians' average annual expense of \$3,526.

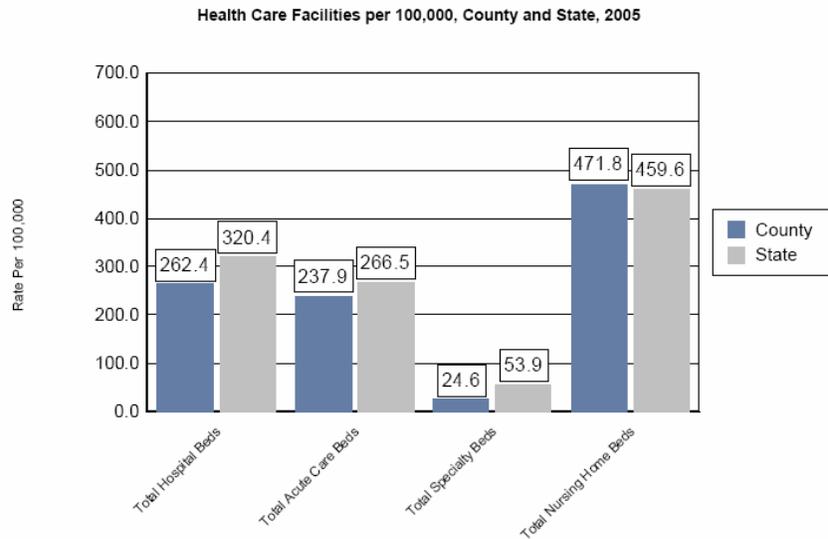
**Figure 34 - Pasco County Health Care Coverage and Access (2002)**

Health Care Coverage & Access	Percent	95% CI (+/-)	Quartile	State percent	95% CI (
Adults who were unable to get medical care in last 12 months	9.0	3.3	3	8.7	1.0
Adults with no health care coverage	17.7	4.2	2	18.7	1.0
Adults with no personal health care providers	22.7	4.4	2	23.9	1.2

The five hospitals in Pasco County (Community Hospital in New Port Richey, Florida Hospital Zephyrhills, Morton Plant North Bay Hospital in New Port Richey, Pasco Regional Medical Center in Dade City, and Regional Medical Center Bayonet Point in Hudson) provide **1,078 beds** (see Figure 34). Pasco County remains below the state rates for number of hospital beds, acute care beds, and specialty beds per 100,000 individuals. Those hospital beds are not filled at the typical state average, however, so they may be adequate (53.1% for Pasco, 58.5% for Florida). However, Pasco County does have more nursing home beds, 471.8 per 100,000 individuals, available than the state average, likely due to the substantial elderly population of the county (see Figure 35). These nursing home beds are needed—they are occupied at a rate of 90.3%, above Florida 88.1% usual occupancy.

**Figure 35 - Pasco County and State Health Facilities' Capacity for Service, Rate Per 100,000 (2005)**

Facilities	Pasco			State		
Total Hospital Beds	1,078	262.4	3	320.4		
Total Acute Care Beds	977	237.9	3	266.5		
Total Specialty Beds	101	24.6	3	53.9		
Total Nursing Home Beds	1,938	471.8	3	459.6		



Out of the five county hospitals, the Community Hospital in New Port Richey had the greatest number of hospitalizations in 2005 and had the longest length of stay. Regional Medical Center Bayonet Point had similar numbers, with a total of 13,120 hospitalizations and a length of stay averaging five days. The remaining three Pasco County Hospitals handled hospitalized patients at lower volumes.

**Figure 36 - Pasco County Hospitalizations (2004-2005)**

Results for Time Period: July 2004 through June 2005					
Facility / City	Total Hospitalizations	Average Charges	Total Charges	Average LOS (in days)	Total LOS (in days)
Community Hospital - 100191 New Port Richey	14,227	\$31,088	\$442,294,101	5.5	78,802.00
Florida Hospital - 100046 Zephyrhills	8,811	\$23,410	\$206,268,103	4.3	37,452.00
Morton Plant North Bay Hospital - 100063 New Port Richey	4,135	\$23,232	\$96,064,026	4.5	18,793.00
Pasco Regional Medical Center - 100211 Dade City	5,285	\$22,176	\$117,200,771	3.3	17,664.00
Regional Medical Center Bayonet	13,120	\$49,684	\$651,848,861	5	65,908.00

Point - 100256 Hudson					
<p><b>Note:</b> The results shown are posted as reported and certified by health care facilities to the Agency for Health Care Administration (AHCA), Florida Center for Health Information and Policy Analysis. Charges and length of stay (LOS) are not adjusted for patient's severity of illness among facilities. If you need further assistance please contact us. This data is effective as of August 04, 2006. See Data Disclaimer.</p>					

**Figure 37 - Pasco County Outpatient Services (2004)**

Results for Time Period: January 2004 through December 2004			
Facility / City	Total Visits	Average Charges	Total Charges
Community Hospital - 100191 New Port Richey	5,490	\$11,499	\$63,128,198
Florida Hospital. - 100046 Zephyrhills	4,641	\$7,025	\$32,600,844
Florida Medical Clinic Special Procedures Center - 221 Zephyrhills	4,778	\$1,107	\$5,288,518
Holiday Surgery Center - 84 Holiday	1,906	\$1,149	\$2,190,180
Meadowlane Surgery Center - 160 New Port Richey	5,368	\$2,096	\$11,251,337
Morton Plant North Bay Hospital - 100063 New Port Richey	2,185	\$7,670	\$16,758,324
New Port Richey Surgery Center - 29 New Port Richey	4,532	\$3,430	\$15,543,688
Pasco Regional Medical Center - 100211 Dade City	3,264	\$9,642	\$31,470,378
Pasco Surgery Center - 22 Zephyrhills	2,998	\$1,811	\$5,430,819
Regional Medical Center Bayonet Point - 100256 Hudson	8,933	\$8,941	\$79,869,546
Seven Springs Surgery Center, Inc. - 132 New Port Richey	3,429	\$968	\$3,320,498
Suncoast Eye Center - 80 Hudson	4,151	\$1,013	\$4,205,971
The Bonati Institute - 20 Hudson	1,383	\$9,971	\$13,790,235
Trinity Surgery Center - 273 New Port Richey	3,345	\$3,252	\$10,877,562

**Note:** The results shown are posted as reported and certified by health care facilities to the Agency for Health Care Administration (AHCA), Florida Center for Health Information and Policy Analysis. Charges and length of stay (LOS) are not adjusted for patient's severity of illness among facilities. If you need further assistance please contact us. This data is effective as of August 04, 2006. See Data Disclaimer.

Among the facilities that provide outpatient care to residents of Pasco County, Regional Medical Center Bayonet Point handles the largest volume of patients overall (see Figure 37). Community Hospital provided the highest number of services to Medicare patients (see Figure 38), whereas Florida

Hospital in Zephyrhills served the largest number of Medicaid patients (see Figure 39). County residents utilize different hospitals for inpatient and outpatient services due to the major causes of mortality discussed previously. Community Hospital in New Port Richey receives the most hospitalizations due to heart failure and diabetes (see Figures 40 and 42). More people utilized Regional Medical Center Bayonet Point for procedures of the lung and chest and treatment of stroke (see Figures 41 and 43).

**Figure 38 - Pasco County Health Services for Medicare Patients (2004)**

Results for Time Period: January 2004 through December 2004			
Facility / City	Total Visits	Average Charges	Total Charges
Community Hospital - 100191 New Port Richey	2,418	\$12,941	\$31,291,718
Florida Hospital - 100046 Zephyrhills	1,793	\$7,833	\$14,045,450
Florida Medical Clinic Special Procedures Center - 221 Zephyrhills	1,720	\$1,098	\$1,888,234
Holiday Surgery Center - 84 Holiday	1,499	\$1,139	\$1,706,860
Meadowlane Surgery Center - 160 New Port Richey	2,465	\$2,049	\$5,051,524
Morton Plant North Bay Hospital - 100063 New Port Richey	682	\$6,870	\$4,685,070
New Port Richey Surgery Center - 29 New Port Richey	1,887	\$3,422	\$6,456,932
Pasco Regional Medical Center - 100211 Dade City	1,030	\$7,266	\$7,483,513
Pasco Surgery Center - 22 Zephyrhills	2,412	\$1,773	\$4,276,435
Regional Medical Center Bayonet Point - 100256 Hudson	4,938	\$8,912	\$44,007,023
Seven Springs Surgery Center, Inc. - 132 New Port Richey	1,665	\$965	\$1,606,436
Suncoast Eye Center - 80 Hudson	3,095	\$1,039	\$3,214,350
The Bonati Institute - 20 Hudson	543	\$9,897	\$5,374,190
Trinity Surgery Center - 273 New Port Richey	1,354	\$3,215	\$4,353,039
<b>Note:</b> The results shown are posted as reported and certified by health care facilities to the Agency for Health Care Administration (AHCA), Florida Center for Health Information and Policy Analysis. Charges and length of stay (LOS) are not adjusted for patient's severity of illness among facilities. If you need further assistance please contact us. This data is effective as of August 04, 2006. See Data Disclaimer.			

**Figure 39 - Pasco County Health Providers for Medicare Patients (2004)**

Results for Time Period: January 2004 through December 2004

Facility / City	Total Visits	Average Charges	Total Charges
Community Hospital - 100191 New Port Richey	438	\$3,655	\$1,601,074
Florida Hospital - 100046 Zephyrhills	715	\$3,112	\$2,225,298
Florida Medical Clinic Special Procedures Center - 221 Zephyrhills	56	\$897	\$50,254
Holiday Surgery Center - 84 Holiday	Too few cases	Too few cases	Too few cases
Meadowlane Surgery Center - 160 New Port Richey	46	\$2,074	\$95,399
Morton Plant North Bay Hospital - 100063 New Port Richey	122	\$6,209	\$757,556
New Port Richey Surgery Center - 29 New Port Richey	70	\$2,745	\$192,150
Pasco Regional Medical Center - 100211 Dade City	58	\$11,651	\$675,734
Pasco Surgery Center - 22 Zephyrhills	42	\$1,868	\$78,450
Regional Medical Center Bayonet Point - 100256 Hudson	91	\$7,161	\$651,608
Seven Springs Surgery Center, Inc. - 132 New Port Richey	89	\$999	\$88,918
Suncoast Eye Center - 80 Hudson	22	X	X
The Bonati Institute - 20 Hudson	Too few cases	Too few cases	Too few cases
Trinity Surgery Center - 273 New Port Richey	186	\$3,567	\$663,468
<p><b>Note:</b> The results shown are posted as reported and certified by health care facilities to the Agency for Health Care Administration (AHCA), Florida Center for Health Information and Policy Analysis. Charges and length of stay (LOS) are not adjusted for patient's severity of illness among facilities. If you need further assistance please contact us. This data is effective as of August 04, 2006. See Data Disclaimer.</p> <p>'X' is fewer than 30 cases, 'Too few cases' is fewer than 5 cases.</p>			

Figure 40 - Pasco County Hospitalizations for Heart Disease and Surgery (2004)

Pasco County Hospitalizations for Heart Disease and Surgery

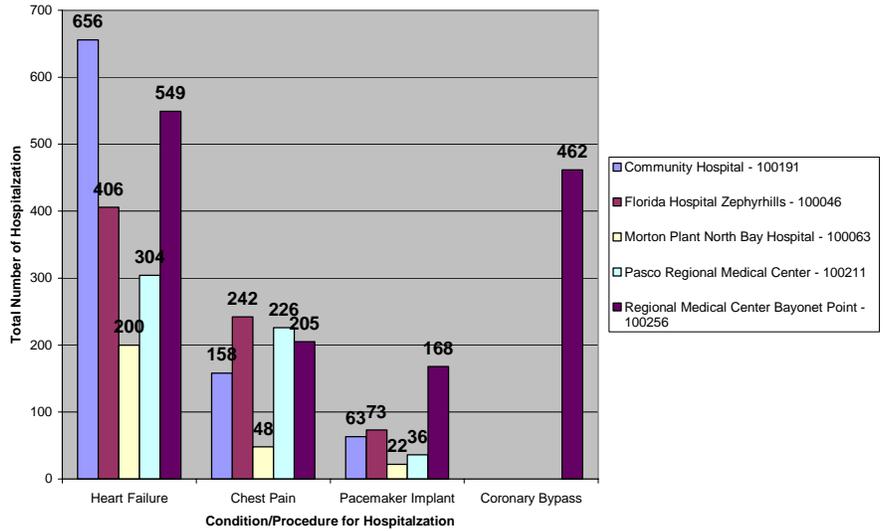


Figure 41 - Pasco County Hospitalizations for Lung-Related Conditions (2004)

Pasco County Hospitalizations Due to Lung Related Conditions

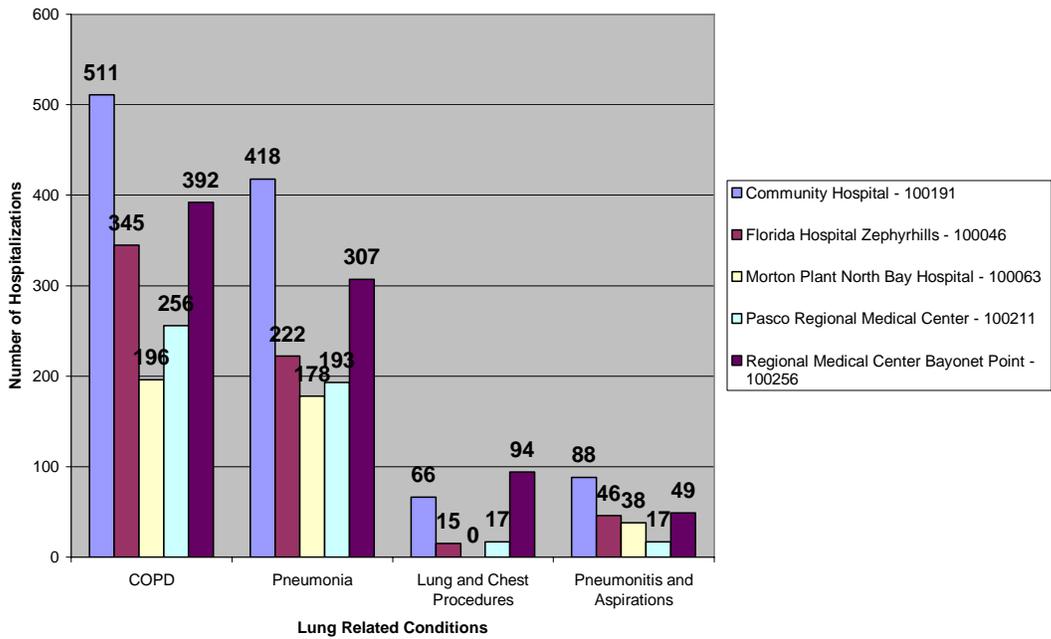


Figure 42 - Pasco County Hospitalizations Due to Diabetes (2004)

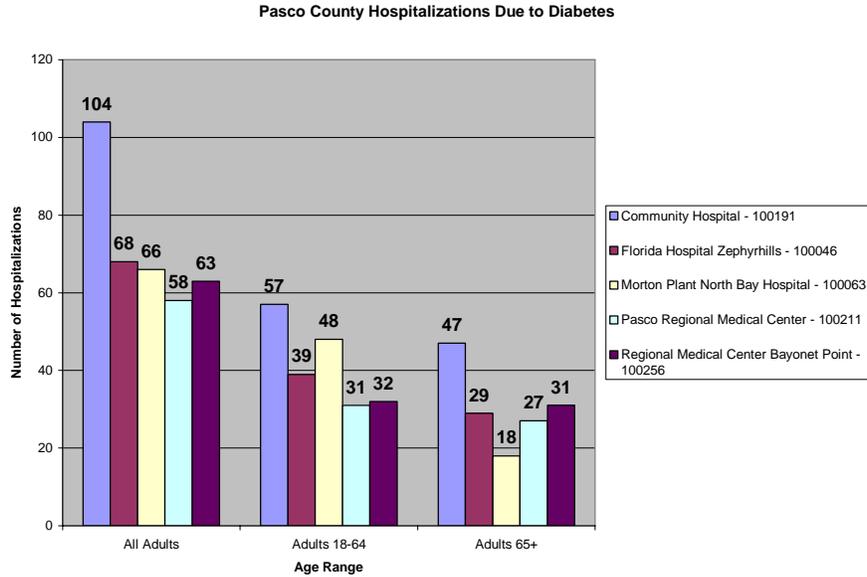


Figure 43 - Pasco County Hospitalizations Due to Stroke (2004)

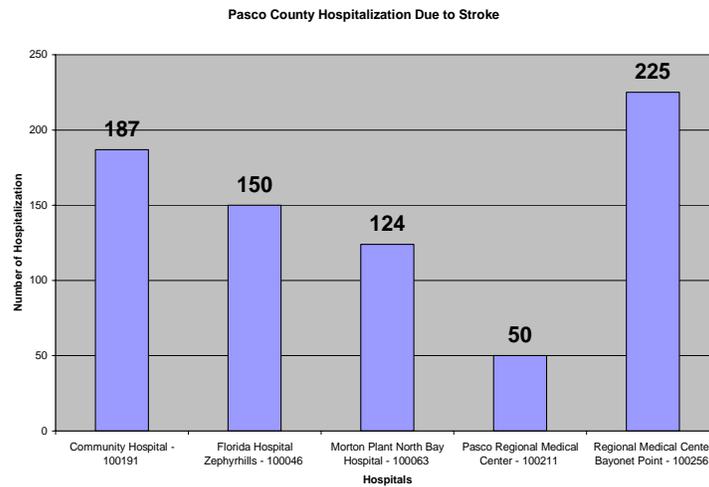
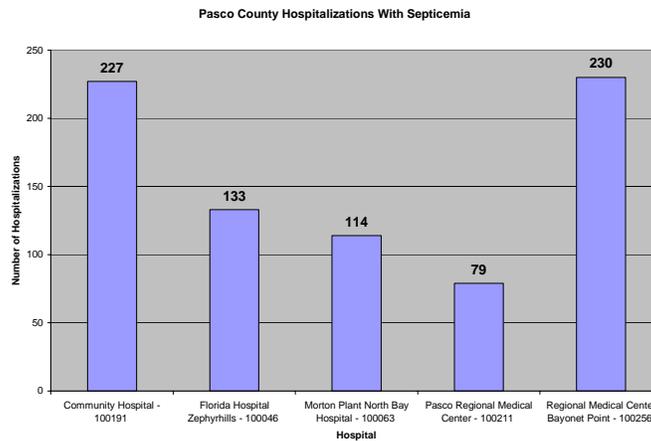
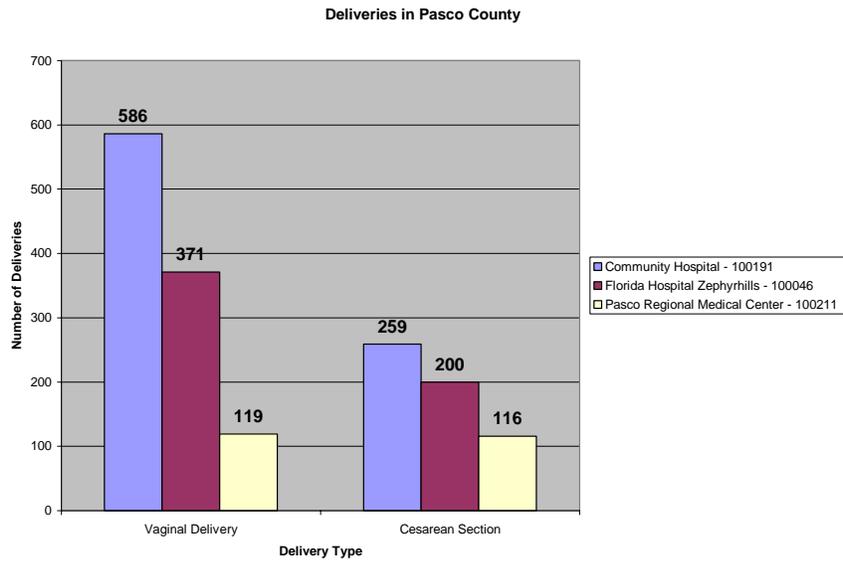


Figure 44 - Pasco County Hospitalizations with Septicemia (2004)



There are three hospitals in Pasco County that offer obstetric services: Community Hospital in New Port Richey, Florida Hospital in Zephyrhills, and Pasco Regional Medical Center. Of these three hospitals, Community Hospital in New Port Richey provided the most vaginal and cesarean section deliveries (see Figure 45).

**Figure 45 - Pasco County Deliveries (2004)**



## Health Behaviors and Risk Factors

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention implemented a yearly telephone survey in 1984 to gather information on the health behaviors and actions of 18 years old and older individuals living in the United States. This survey is often referred to as “BRFSS,” for Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System Survey. The BRFSS used random sampling when forming the study samples to ensure that its results may be generalized (Florida Department of Health BRFSS Report, 2002). For certain behavioral risk factors, data were not available for the Hispanic and black populations. A total of 505 Pasco County residents were interviewed. CHARTS utilized the BRFSS survey for its county-specific behavioral risk factors. Pasco County and Florida were polled about alcohol and tobacco use, lack of physical activity, and nutrition—all of which are considered risk factors for the development of type II diabetes, high cholesterol, hypertension, and obesity. Regular screenings for colorectal cancer, cholesterol, HIV/AIDS, breast cancer, and cervical cancer are considered healthy behaviors and were also asked about. Health care access, including influenza immunizations and physician and dentist visits, was queried to determine preventive measures being taken by the populace.

According to CHARTS and the Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System survey data, 26 percent of Pasco County residents are currently smoking (see Figure 46). Contrary to data several decades ago, BRFSS reported in 2002 that more women, 26.8 percent, smoke cigarettes than men, 25.1 percent. However, there are more non-Hispanic whites who make up the smoking population. Although many smokers are in the age group 18-44, most of the smokers consists of the 45-64 age group (Florida Department of Health - BRFSS Report, 2002).

Socioeconomic status, including education and income level, influences lifestyle factors, such as smoking. Educational attainment is correlated with lower smoking rates. Only 19.4 percent of the people who have gone to college smoke, but 33.6% of those who did not finish their high school education smoke. The 2003 BRFSS survey demonstrated that individuals with incomes

below \$25,000 are more likely to smoke than individuals whose income is \$25,000 or more. Although 50.4 percent of Pasco County smokers have tried to quit smoking in the last year, there is no available data on whether the cessation has been maintained.

**Figure 46 - Alcohol and Tobacco Use, Pasco County and State (2002)**

Alcohol and Tobacco Use	COUNTY 2002			STATE 2002	
	Percent	95% CI (+/-)	Quartile	State Percent	95% CI (+/-)
Adults who currently smoke	26.0	4.5	3	22.2	1.1
Adults who engage in heavy or binge drinking	17.3	4.2	4	14.1	1.0
Adults who have ever quit smoking in last 12 months	50.4	10.2	2	55.3	2.6

In addition, smoking during pregnancy has numerous unwanted outcomes for the fetus. Presently, 18.6 percent of expectant mothers in Pasco County are smoking (Department of Children and Families, Five-Year Plan for Prevention of Child Abuse, Neglect & Abandonment: Pasco and Pinellas Counties 2005-2009, 2005). These rates are nearly two times the state average, according to Lisa Sloan, the Tobacco Specialist consultant for Pasco County Health Department. With implemented programs such as Quit Line, nicotine replacement programs, and Baby and Me, Tobacco Free, these numbers are expected to decline soon.

Non-Hispanic white men make up the biggest portion of Pasco County residents who partake in heavy or binge drinking. Also, the 18-45 years old cohort constitutes most of the heavy drinkers, at 29 percent of the county population. The socioeconomic status factors that were characteristic of smokers play the opposite role for drinkers. The 2002 BRFSS survey found that individuals who have attended college and have an income of \$50,000 or more make up most of Pasco County’s heavy or binge drinkers.

In addition to minimizing harmful behaviors, secondary prevention employed by public health to reduce the incidence and adverse outcomes of disease such as diabetes, heart disease, dental caries, influenza, and sexually transmitted diseases may be found through screening. Since Pasco County is predominantly made up of pre-retired and retired residents, the number of chronic illness

cases is consistently higher than the state’s cases (CHARTS). In response to the high number of cases, Pasco County Health Department has employed various chronic disease prevention programs.

Higher socioeconomic status and income do not seem to have a positive correlation with obtaining cholesterol screening (BRFSS). The BRFSS survey found that 97.3 percent of individuals who did not graduate from high school and had a prior screening test have had their cholesterol checked in the last two years; however, 91.1 percent of individuals who have attended college have had their cholesterol checked in the last two years. Lower socioeconomic status is a risk factor for having a high blood cholesterol level, as 51.5 percent of individuals whose income is \$24,999 or lower have been diagnosed with high cholesterol in contrast to an overall rate of 42.6%. Gender also plays a role in health seeking behavior, and it is often assumed that women are generally more health-conscious than men. The results of the BRFSS survey (2002) concerning cholesterol screening support this notion. Although 34 percent of men have been told they have high cholesterol compared to 32 percent of women, more women than men (83.8 percent to 78.9 percent, respectively) follow physician’s orders to reduce their high cholesterol levels by taking high blood pressure medication.

**Figure 47 - Cholesterol Statistics, Pasco County and State (2002)**

High Cholesterol	Percent	95% CI (+/-)	Quartile	State percent	95% CI (
Adults who have been told by a doctor or other health professional that their blood cholesterol is high	42.6	5.4	4	35.2	1.3
Adults who have ever had their blood cholesterol checked	85.4	4.3	4	83.1	1.1
Adults who have had their cholesterol checked in last 2 years (if they have ever been checked)	91.8	2.8	3	91.8	0.7

Pasco County also has a broader population affected by hypertension than the rest of the state, which may be tied to its larger number of elderly patients or may also result from behaviors such as smoking, lack of physical activity, and obesity.

**Figure 48 - Hypertension Statistics, Pasco County and State (2002)**

Hypertension	Percent	95% CI (+/-)	Quartile	State percent	95% CI (
Adults now taking HBP medicine (if they have HBP)	81.4	6.7	4	76.0	2.0
Adults who have been told by a doctor or other health professional that they have high blood pressure	33.0	4.8	3	27.7	1.1

During the last two decades, there has been a great increase in the number of people who are obese and overweight in the United States (Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, 2004). In spite of the 2010 Healthy People objective of decreasing the prevalence of obesity, data has not shown an improvement. In Pasco County, 31.7 percent of the individuals who participated in the BRFSS survey in 2002 were classified as obese, and 32 percent were classified as overweight. Therefore, more than half of the people randomly chosen to participate were either obese or overweight.

**Figure 49 - Overweight/Obesity Statistics, Pasco County and State (2002)**

Overweight/Obesity	Percent	95% CI (+/-)	Quartile	State percent	95% CI (
Adults who are obese (BMI >= 30)	31.7	4.9	4	22.3	1.0
Adults who are overweight (BMI >= 25 to < 30)	32.0	4.9	2	35.1	1.2
Adults who have received advice from a doctor or other health professional about their weight in past 12 months	23.8	4.5	4	21.1	1.1

Data source: 2002 Behavioral Risk Factors Surveillance Telephone Survey conducted by the Florida Department of Health, Bureau of Epidemiology. Overall, 34,551 adults were randomly selected and interviewed for the survey; about 500 adults were surveyed in each county. 95% CI = 95% Confidence Interval

A lack of physical activity and unhealthy eating habits contribute to obesity, cardiovascular diseases, and type II diabetes. Examining the eating habits and physical activeness of Pasco County residents may explain the high rates of those previously mentioned chronic illnesses in the county. Residents who did not eat the recommended five servings of fruits and vegetables a day accounted for 76.5 percent of those individuals interviewed, and 56.9 percent of residents did not have a moderate level of physical activity in their daily lives (see Figure 50).

**Figure 50 - Nutrition and Physical Activity Statistics, Pasco County and State (2002)**

Nutrition	Percent	95% CI (+/-)	Quartile	State percent	95% CI (
Adults who consume < 5 fruits and vegetables a day	76.5	4.2	3	74.3	1.2
Adults who have been advised by a doctor, nurse, or other health professional to eat fewer high fat or cholesterol foods	20.1	4.0	2	21.0	1.1
Adults who have been advised by a doctor, nurse, or other health professional to eat more fruits and vegetables	26.0	4.5	2	27.9	1.2
Physical Activity	Percent	95% CI (+/-)	Quartile	State percent	95% CI (
Adults who have been advised by a doctor, nurse, or other health professional to be more physically active	24.9	4.5	2	28.0	1.3
Adults with no leisure time physical activity	25.1	4.5	2	26.4	1.2
Adults with no regular moderate physical activity	56.9	5.1	3	55.1	1.3
Adults with no regular vigorous physical activity	80.2	4.1	3	75.6	1.2

Some risk factors for diabetes include elderly, hypertension, and obesity, for which Pasco County has higher rates than the state. Out of 505 Pasco County residents interviewed, 12.4 percent have been diagnosed with diabetes (see Figure 51). Pasco County is in the fourth quartile for population diagnosed with diabetes, which is hardly a surprise given the combination of age, high blood pressure, and excess weight seen in county residents.

**Figure 51 - Diabetes Statistics, Pasco County and State (2002)**

Diabetes	Percent	95% CI (+/-)	Quartile	State percent	95% CI (
Adults who have been told by a doctor that they have diabetes	12.4	3.6	4	8.2	0.6

## Dentistry

Oral health indicators such as visiting the dentist, 63.5 percent, and the teeth cleanings in the last year, 66.1 percent, are lower for Pasco County residents than that of state residents, 70.2 percent and 70.5 percent, respectively (see Figure 52). These lower percentages may be attributed to the lack of available dentists in Pasco County overall (see Figure 32) and also within the Pasco County Health Department. Pasco County Health Department

provides one public health dental clinic in the county with one full-time dentist, Dr. Ray Anel. This dental clinic services Medicaid, Healthy Start, Ryan White clients, and other Pasco County residents. Also, education and yearly income seem to be highly correlated with these oral health indicators because 46.6 percent of individuals who did not graduate from high school have not visited the dentist within the last year, whereas 68.2 percent of the persons who attended college have visited the dentist within the last year. Pasco County graduates a lower percentage of its students from high school than the state of Florida altogether.

**Figure 52 - Oral Health Statistics, Pasco County and State (2002)**

Oral Health	Percent	95% CI (+/-)	Quartile	State percent	95% CI (
Adults who have had their teeth cleaned within past year	66.1	5.3	2	70.5	1.3
Adults who visited a dentist within past year	63.5	5.1	2	70.2	1.4
Adults with no teeth removed	35.3	5.1	1	46.7	1.3

Better news for Pasco County may be found in the prevalence of influenza and pneumonia immunizations (see Figure 53). According to the BRFSS survey, more Pasco County residents have ever had pneumonia or flu shots (33.6 percent and 32.4 percent, respectively) than the state of Florida (22.7 percent and 26.2 percent, respectively). These vaccinations have been utilized more by men than women; however, more women, 1.6 percent, have utilized flu shots provided by the Pasco County Health Department than men, 0.6 percent. According to Cynthia Street, senior community health nurse supervisor at Pasco County Health Department, this result may stem from the Pasco County Health Department having more services for women and children than men. Consequently, women are more exposed to and are more accustomed to receiving public health services such as flu shots from the health department than men.

**Figure 53 - Pneumonia/Influenza Immunizations, Pasco County and State (2002)**

Pneumonia/Influenza	Percent	95% CI (+/-)	Quartile	State percent	95% CI (
Adults who have ever had a pneumonia shot	33.6	5.0	4	22.7	0.9
Adults who have received a flu shot at CHD	1.1	0.8	1	1.2	0.2
Adults who have received a flu shot within last 12 months	32.4	4.7	3	26.2	1.0

Although there is data available on the persons obtaining screening tests for colorectal cancer in Pasco County, the only data available refers to non-Hispanic males and females (Florida Department of Health - BRFSS survey, 2002). Therefore, these values are not representative of the residents of Pasco County as a whole. Nevertheless, 43.8 percent of the individuals who received a colorectal screening in the last two years were men, and 41.8 percent of all the people interviewed received a colorectal screening test in the last two years—a percentage significantly higher than the state’s rate of 33.5 percent (see Figure 54). Pasco County is in the highest quartile for this behavioral indicator.

**Figure 54 - Colorectal Cancer Screening, Pasco County and State (2002)**

Colorectal Cancer Screening	Percent	95% CI (+/-)	Quartile	State percent	95% CI (
Adults over 50 who have ever had a blood stool test	51.1	6.8	3	44.4	1.7
Adults over 50 who have ever had a sigmoidoscopy or colonoscopy	50.1	7.0	2	52.6	1.8
Adults over 50 who have had a blood stool test in past 2 years	41.8	6.8	4	33.5	1.6

The best way to detect the incidence of breast and cervical cancer is through mammograms and pap smear tests. These screening tools can drastically alter the outcomes of these two cancers. Though a high percentage of adult women in Pasco County have ever had a pap smear test (96.9%), only 82.4% of adult women underwent a pap smear test in the past two years. Additionally, only 77.6% of women over 40 have had a mammogram in the last two years (see Figure 55). Further data shows that the majority of these screening tests are being utilized primarily by women who have attended college and who are married or living together with their partners.

**Figure 55 - Mammograms and Pap Smears, Pasco County and State (2002)**

Mammogram & Pap Smears	Percent	95% CI (+/-)	Quartile	State percent	95% CI (
Adult women who have ever had a pap smear test	96.6	2.8	4	93.5	1.0
Adult women who have had a pap smear test in past 2 years	82.4	5.7	3	82.2	1.5
Women over 40 who have had a mammogram within past 2 years (for those who have had a mammogram)	77.6	6.0	3	79.0	1.5

Figure 56 shows the percentage of people who have been tested for HIV, the Human Immunodeficiency Virus. Being tested for HIV is one of the best ways to limit transmission to others to assure better outcomes via early intervention. Pasco lags behind the state in those who have been tested, which may be a response to Pasco’s comparatively low percentage of adults who have HIV. Unfortunately, another route for reducing transmission, education, may be lacking because of the perception that HIV and STDs are not risks for Pasco County residents. The percentage of adults who report that their doctor has talked to them about preventing sexually transmitted diseases via condom use is significantly lower in Pasco County when compared to the state of Florida, which

**Figure 56 - HIV/AIDS and STD prevention, Pasco County and State (2002)**

HIV/AIDS	Percent	95% CI (+/-)	Quartile	State percent	95% CI (
Adults under 65 who have ever been tested for HIV	43.6	6.7	2	47.7	1.6
Adults under 65 who have had HIV test within past year (for those who have been tested)	87.9	3.9	3	86.7	1.0
Adults whose doctor has talked to them about preventing STDs through condom use.	9.4	3.4	1	16.3	1.6

## Perceived Health Needs of Pasco County Residents

The Suncoast Health Council survey, Pasco County Community Assessment, and interviews of various Pasco County Health Department employees were utilized to determine the perceived health needs of the Pasco County Community.

According to Suncoast Health Council survey results, 34.15 percent of the people interviewed thought the residents of Pasco County were in good health. However, only one out of the 41 people interviewed rated their knowledge of health care issues within the county as "excellent." Also, only one person of the interviewed group stated that they were very knowledgeable about affordable health care services made available to the Pasco County residents. In addition, the interviewees rated which health care services were difficult to obtain in Pasco County, and they believed mental health services to be the most difficult, followed by dental care. Prescription and other medical supplies also proved a challenge to obtain, followed by alternative forms of health therapy (such as acupuncture and herbal medicines) and convenient walk-in clinics. The people who participated in the survey thought those Pasco County residents who lack health insurance had the greatest obstacles to receiving care. They believed the state government has the responsibility of addressing the problems associated with the accessibility and rising cost of health care. Also, Pasco County residents believed one of the ways to solve the problems related to health care is to offer more affordable health care coverage.

A group of dietetic interns from the Pasco County Health Department performed the Pasco County Community Assessment. The assessment revealed incongruence between the community members and community leaders in the perception of health needs. According to the results of the community survey, Pasco County residents believed the five most pressing health care issues were heart disease, obesity, cancer, diabetes, and sexually transmitted diseases. However, the community leaders thought the top four health care issues were a lack of health care, cardiovascular diseases, obesity, and hepatitis C.

Lastly, nine interviews of different Pasco County Health Department full-time employees were performed. Although nine interviews do not provide this study with enough power to be statistically significant, the results are still of great value. The questions asked during the interviews were all open-ended, which allowed for the greatest information to be gathered without setting limitations on answers.

According to the interviewees, the following are some barriers to accessing services provided by the Pasco County Health Department:

*Language* - A significant number of Pasco County Health Department clients speak Spanish and Creole. Although a translator is provided whenever possible for clients, there have been instances when a translator was not available for clients who speak Arabic and some African languages.

*Transportation* - A lack of transportation limits the accessibility of the services provided. Even though there is a public transportation system in Pasco County, the routes are extremely limited and the wait times are very long. Some clients have had to walk two hours to receive services from Pasco County Health Department clinics.

*Space Limitations* - Due to the inadequate space in clinics, there is a limit on the number of patients who can be seen in a given day. When the clients can make it to the clinics for their appointments, there is usually a long wait to be seen since there is not enough space to facilitate faster service.

*Insufficient Practitioners* - The lack of available practitioners who are willing to work for the health department also limits the amount of patients who can be seen in a day. Therefore, long wait lists to see physicians are commonplace. Moreover, there are only three full-time practitioners, two part-time practitioners, and four practicing advance registered nurse practitioners for the entire Pasco County Health Department.

*Lack of Marketing* - Adequate marketing is not in place to help inform the residents of Pasco County of the services provided by the county health department.

Although special accommodations are provided to patients whenever possible and available, the Pasco County Health Department's main accommodation is language translators. Translators are available for Spanish, Creole, Arabic, and Bosnian, and the need is often assessed when appointments

are scheduled. If a translator is required for a visit, special arrangements are made to ensure that there will be a translator available. Also, Pasco County residents who qualify for Healthy Start can receive house calls to assure that clients are receiving the assistance they need.

In addition, changes to the clinic hours have been made in order to make services at health clinics more accessible. The Pasco County health clinic on Little Road in New Port Richey has extended its working hours to 7 a.m. through 6 p.m. to make it easier for clients who work during a normal 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. day to access these services. For those who have a flexible work schedule, walk-in service may be available; however, the time is limited on when care can be received. Also, the PCHD interviewees assessed how well their program was doing. The majority of the individuals interviewed scored themselves below a nine on a scale of one to ten, with one being the worst and ten being the best. Below is a list of areas that can be improved in order to increase the employees' scores of their services:

*Increase Employees* - The employees interviewed emphasized the need to increase employment. With the burgeoning growth of Pasco County, there needs to be a simultaneous growth within the Pasco County Health Department to keep up with the growing health needs and demand for services from residents.

*Establish Customer Service Training* - Training on customer service methods, such as the proper way to answer the phone and speak with clients seeking services, should be implemented. Anecdotal evidence speaks to this need. For instance, during a visit to one of the clinics, a client was crying because she was insulted by an employee after explaining that she did not have any money for the service fee. The employee told the client that she didn't have any money for her health, but she had money to spend on cigarettes. Because of this incident, this individual will probably never return to the health department to obtain needed health care that she might not be able to receive elsewhere.

*Increase the Number of Providers and Hours of Availability* - There are currently three full-time practitioners, two part-time practitioners, and four advanced registered nurse practitioners working for the Pasco County Health Department. With more practitioners available, the health needs of the Pasco

County residents would be met more easily. If the hours of availability were also increased, more individuals needing the services would be able to obtain them.

*Grant Writers* - Professional grant writers should be employed by the health department to increase the amount of money flowing into the department so that more necessary programs and services can be provided.

Another set of variables addressed in the survey were the unmet needs of the Pasco County residents. According to the public health employees who were interviewed, Pasco County residents would surely benefit from

- **Affordable health insurance**
- **Dental clinics:** Only one dental clinic exists in the health department.
- **Mental health services**
- **Options for primary care services**
- **Services for men:** The only service provided exclusively for men at the Pasco County Health Department is vasectomy.

## Survey Questions for Service Providers in Pasco County

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

Title: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

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

Name of Agency/Program: \_\_\_\_\_

1. What are the services provided by your agency or program?
2. What are some of the barriers for citizens in Pasco County to accessing these services?
3. What are some special accommodations that you provide for citizens who require special services in Pasco County (e.g. language/cultural barriers or transportation issues)?
4. Please rate your agency or program on how well you are doing to meet the needs of the client given your limited resources. Please give reasons for rating.
5. What could you do to improve?
6. What are the major health concerns of citizens in Pasco County?
7. What are some of the needs of citizens in Pasco County that are not being addressed?
8. What do you think needs to be done to address the needs that are not being provided?

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