

The 2016 Pasco County Community Health Survey is part of an ongoing community assessment designed to determine the needs of the community, gain a greater understanding of the health perceptions of our community, review feedback from the community, and analyze improvements in health outcomes for the Pasco County region. The purpose of this data collection from the Pasco County Community Health Survey is to help the Florida Department of Health (DOH) in Pasco County and affiliated partners develop a more comprehensive course of action to benefit the populace that can be implemented into a Community Health Improvement Plan (CHIP).

The Pasco County Community Health Survey was made available online on September 6th, 2016 and collected responses until January 18th, 2017. This survey was available to all Pasco County residents with access to the internet within the aforementioned time frame. DOH-Pasco employees were encouraged to pass out cards that had a link to the survey printed on the front and a QR code on the back that could allow individuals to access the survey from their smartphones. There were 224 initial responses to the survey, 9 were not included due to a lack of completion of the survey, leaving 215 survey responses available for analysis.

The survey instrument was developed internally at DOH-Pasco and disseminated by placement on the DOH-Pasco website, by DOH-Pasco employees, and assorted community partners. Research questions were created from previous iterations of the Community Health Survey and similar community health surveys from neighboring counties, along with Mobilization for Action through Planning and Partnerships (MAPP) guidelines. Demographic information was collected along with information about community health, perceived health concerns, risky behavior, and treatment/insurance options.

RESULTS

As previously mentioned, out of 225 surveys submitted, 9 were labeled as incomplete and removed, leaving 216 available for analysis. Participants were asked to respond to questions about seven demographic variables: zip code, city of residence, income, number of individuals in household, age, ethnicity, and gender. From our seven age categories, the 55-64 age group made up the greatest proportion of respondents (n=63, 29.3%). Non-Hispanic whites were the largest ethnic group/race (n=165, 77.8%), and significantly more of our survey responses were from individuals identifying as female (n=175, 82.94%) as opposed to male (n=35, 16.59%). Income distribution was relatively even among all the separate strata, with the greatest number of respondents reporting an income between \$50,000 and \$74,999 (n=40, 19.05%). The fewest number of responses were from individuals reporting less than \$15,000 in yearly income (n=20, 9.52%). As we were unable to achieve a representative sample of the population through use of the online survey, survey results are not generalizable for Pasco County.

Table 1.

Gender	
Male	16.59%
Female	82.94%
Other	0.47%
Race/Ethnicity	
White/Non-Hispanic	77.83%
Black/African-American	4.72%
Hispanic/Latino	8.49%
Asian/Pacific Islander	0.94%
Multi-racial/Multi-ethnic	2.83%
Other	5.19%
Age	
12-17	0.93%
18-24	2.79%
25-34	14.88%
35-44	19.07%
45-54	23.26%
55-64	29.30%
65-80	9.77%
81+	0.00%
Income	
Less than \$15,000	9.52%
\$15,000 - \$24,999	17.14%
\$25,000 - \$34,999	18.10%
\$35,000 - \$49,999	18.10%
\$50,000 - \$74,999	19.05%
\$75,000 or more	18.10%
Number in Household	
Less than 4	77.73%
4 or more	22.27%

In response to the query which asked about community attributes that were most important for a healthy community, participants in the survey stated that low crime/safe neighborhoods (n=112, 52.09%), access to health care (n=78, 36.28%), and good jobs/strong economy (n=73, 33.95%) were most important. In regards to what survey participants believed was the most important health concern in the community, the most common responses were mental health issues (n=93, 43.26%), homelessness (n=75, 34.88%), chronic conditions such as cancer, heart disease, and high blood pressure (n=64, 29.77%), and overweight/obesity (n=62, 28.84%). Survey participants stated that the risky behaviors that had the most overall impact on health in Pasco County were drug abuse (n=174, 80.93%), alcohol use/abuse (n=126, 58.60%), and poor eating habits (n=76, 35.35%). A majority of survey participants indicated that they had one doctor or clinic that they thought of as their primary medical care provider (n=186, 86.92%).

Only 18 survey participants indicated that they either did not have insurance or did not know if they had insurance (n=18, 8.41%). Over half of the respondents indicated that they were aware of locations that provided medical care for individuals that were uninsured or could not afford care (n=125, 58.41%). Almost half of survey participants indicated that they were not able to afford medication that they needed for themselves and were forced to go without (n=103, 47.91%). Approximately one-quarter of respondents stated that there was a time in the previous year in which they needed medical care but were unable to receive it (n=55, 25.70%). Almost one-third of residents stated that there was a time that they were unable to receive dental care when they needed it (n=69, 32.39%). An overwhelming majority of individuals felt as if they would be able to take care of themselves and their family during a natural disaster or an outbreak (n=196, 91.16%). The majority of survey respondents also reported their health as “excellent” (n=51, 23.72%) or “good” (n=112, 52.09%). Only 24.18% of respondents classified their health as either “fair” or “poor”.

Table 2.

<u>Survey Question</u>	<u>Yes</u>	<u>No</u>
1. Do you have one doctor or clinic you think of as your primary medical care provider?	86.92%	13.08%
2. Do you know any places that provide medical care for people who are uninsured and cannot afford medical care?	58.41%	41.59%
3. Have you ever had to go without medicine because you could not afford it?	47.91%	52.09%
4. Have you or a member of your household used an emergency room (ER) in the past year?	57.67%	42.33%
5. In the past 12 months, was there a time when you needed medical care but could not get it?	25.70%	73.36%
6. In the past 12 months, was there a time when you needed dental care but could not get it?	32.39%	67.61%
7. During a natural disaster or emergency (such as a hurricane or disease outbreak), would you be able to take care of yourself and your family at home?	91.16%	8.84%

Table 3.

<u>Survey Question</u>	<u>Primary Choice</u>	<u>Secondary Choice</u>	<u>Tertiary Choice</u>	
1. Check the 3 items below that you believe are the most important for a healthy community.	Low crime/safe neighborhoods (52.09%)	Access to healthcare (36.28%)	Good jobs and strong economy (33.95%)	
2. Check the 3 items below that you believe are the most important health concerns in your community.	Mental health issues (43.26%)	Homelessness (34.88%)	Chronic conditions (29.77%)	
3. . What 3 risky behaviors do you believe have the greatest overall impact on health in Pasco County	Drug abuse (80.93%)	Alcohol use/abuse (58.60%)	Poor eating habits (35.35%)	
4. Where would you if you needed medical care?	Doctor's office (77.57%)	Walk-in clinic (18.22%)	Hospital emergency room (ER) (15.42%)	
5. What kind of health insurance do you have?	Employer pays all or part of insurance (63.55%)	Private, self-pay insurance (10.75%)	Medicare (8.88%)	
6. If you or any household members are uninsured, what is the main reason you do not have health insurance?	Too expensive/premium too high/can't afford it (15.81%)	Unemployed/family member responsible for insurance is unemployed (1.86%)	Employer does not offer insurance (1.40%)	
7. What is the main reason you used the emergency room (ER) for care?	Felt illness/injury was very serious (54.03%)	Told to go by another doctor or nurse (12.10%)	Doctor/dentist's office was closed (8.87%)	
8. If, during the past 12 months, you needed medical care but could not get it, what was the main reason you could not get care for this problem?	No insurance (42.86%)	Care is too expensive (42.86%)	Too long to wait for an appointment (22.45%)	

<u>Survey Question</u>	<u>Primary Choice</u>	<u>Secondary Choice</u>	<u>Tertiary Choice</u>	
9. If, during the past 12 months, you needed medical care but could not get it, what was the main reason you could not get care for this problem?	Care is too expensive (61.97%)	No insurance (40.85%)	Did not have a dentist who would see me (8.45%)	
10. What do you think is the best way to share health information?	Social media (42.52%)	When you visit a clinic or provider (34.11%)	Community event/Health fair (29.44%)	
11. How would you rate your personal health?	Good (52.09%)	Excellent (23.72%)	Fair (19.53%)	Poor (4.65%)

The Pasco County Community Health Survey was made available online to reach a wider cross-section of individuals across the county. However, our survey results are not generalizable to the Pasco County population as a whole due to the fact that approximately 4 out of 5 respondents were female. Our study population also skewed much older than expected, with the greatest number of respondents coming from the 55-64 age stratum, followed by the 45-54 age stratum.

Future iterations of this survey would benefit from a multi-stage design, which may help attain a more representative population sample. Utilizing multiple forms of survey distribution (i.e. online, paper copies, use of interviewers) may result in a more robust sample size.

QUALITY OF LIFE

Quality of life indicators are a way to measure the vital signs of a community. An individual's health-related quality of life is not determined only by their personal-level characteristics, but also is socially determined by both physical and social environmental characteristics of their communities. For some it may mean security and safety, employment opportunities, a clean environment, efficient government, access to services or simply time spent with family and friends

Pasco County participated in The National Citizen Survey™ and results posted in the Community Livability Report for 2016¹ indicate that most survey respondents felt positively about the overall quality of life in Pasco County and the County as a place to live. A majority of residents rated the quality of life in Pasco County as excellent or good. Overall Quality of Life was rated as Excellent by 14% of residents, Good by 50% and 30% Fair and 6%.

Shown below are the eight facets of community. The color of each community facet summarizes how residents rated it across the three sections of the survey that represent the pillars of a community – Community Characteristics, Governance and Participation. When most ratings across the three pillars were higher than the benchmark, the color for that facet is the darkest shade; when most ratings were lower than the benchmark, the color is the lightest shade. A mix of ratings (higher and lower than the benchmark) results in a color between the extremes.

In addition to a summary of ratings, the image below includes one or more stars to indicate which community facets were the most important focus areas for the community. Residents identified Safety and Mobility as priorities for the Pasco County community in the coming two years. It is noteworthy that Pasco County residents gave favorable ratings to Safety as well as to Natural Environment, Built Environment, Economy, Recreation and Wellness and Community Engagement. Ratings for Mobility and Education and Enrichment were less positive than those seen in other communities. This overview of the key aspects of community quality provides a quick summary of where residents see exceptionally strong performance and where performance offers the greatest opportunity for improvement. Linking quality to importance offers community members and leaders a view into the characteristics of the community that matter most and that seem to be working best.

Legend

- Higher than national benchmark
- Similar to national benchmark
- Lower than national benchmark

- ★ Most important



In addition to rating the County as a place to live, according to the 2016 survey respondents rated several aspects of community quality including Pasco County as a place to raise children and to retire, their neighborhood as a place to live, the overall image or reputation of Pasco County and its overall appearance. About three-quarters of respondents gave positive ratings to their neighborhood as a place to live while about 6 in 10 favorably rated Pasco County as a place to retire; both of these ratings were similar to the benchmark. Nearly 6 in 10 residents gave excellent or good ratings to the County as a place to raise children and about 4 in 10 were pleased with the overall image and overall appearance of Pasco County.

1. National Research Center, Inc. (2016) The National Citizen Survey. Pasco County, FL *Community Livability Report*. Retrieved from <http://www.pascocountyfl.net/ArchiveCenter/ViewFile/Item/3555>