

**Bethesda Health
Community Health Needs Assessment
2015**



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Executive Summary
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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 2015, Bethesda Hospital engaged the Health Council of Southeast Florida to facilitate a comprehensive health needs assessment in adherence with the Internal Revenue Service (IRS) and Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act requirements and guidelines.

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 for 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 four sections:

1. Demographic and Socioeconomic Profile
2. Health Status Profile
3. Health Resource Access and Availability Profile
4. Community Perspective

Demographic and Socioeconomic Profile

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

- There are a total 1,339,221 residents in Palm Beach County, and Bethesda Hospital's service areas account for 65% of the total population in Palm Beach County.
- Over a fifth (21.9%) of the residents in the county are 65 years or older, which is more than the rate of Florida, which is 17.8%.
- Over three quarters (75.8%) of the population are White and 19.5% of the residents in Palm Beach County identify as Hispanic.
- About 30.0% of the residents speak a language other than English.
- Just over 14.5% of the population is at or below the poverty level and the per capita income is \$32,858. Both of which are higher than the state of Florida.
- Unemployment rate is 6.3% and 82.0% of workers are private wage and salary workers.
- In 2015, the count of homeless individuals in Palm Beach County was 1,421.

Health Status Profile

This section profiles the health status of the community and includes data on 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. Additionally, inpatient discharges and emergency department visits for Bethesda Hospitals by primary and secondary service area ZIP Codes are included in this section.

- The rate of live births in Palm Beach County is 10.5%, lower than the state's rate of 11.1%. Over 58% of births in Palm Beach County occur in the primary and secondary service areas of Bethesda Hospitals (East and West). The county's infant mortality rate (4.6) is a lower than Florida's rate (6.1) as a whole.
- In Palm Beach County, 23.6% of births were to mothers with less than adequate prenatal care according to the Kotelchuck Index.¹
- The county's rate of preterm births has decreased from 2011-2013 to 13.0 per 1,000, while the state of Florida has an increasing trend in the rate of preterm births.
- In Palm Beach, 29.9% of middle school and high school students reported 'alcohol or any illicit drug' use, 2.9% higher than in Florida.
- The age-adjusted suicide rate in Palm Beach County in 2013 was 14.5 per 100,000, which is higher than that of the state of Florida (13.8 per 100,000).
- The rate of hospitalizations from diabetes has increased from 2010 to 2012 from 1689.1 per 100,000 to 1737.3 per 100,000, while all other rates of hospitalizations from chronic diseases (coronary heart disease, chronic lower respiratory disease, stroke, cancer and asthma) have decreased during the same time period.
- The rate of obesity among adults in Palm Beach County is 60.1%, lower than the state's rate of 62.8%. Nearly 1 in 4 high school students (24.8%) were overweight or obese in 2013, 30.5% of which are Black (non-Hispanic) and 28.0% of which are Hispanic.
- The most frequent cause of deaths in Palm Beach County in 2013 was heart disease accounting for 25.6% of deaths, followed by cancer, responsible for 23.8% of deaths. In 2013, the most frequent leading cause of deaths was major cardiovascular disease in Bethesda Hospital's primary service area, accounting for 1,842 deaths, or 33.6% of deaths.
- There were 634 deaths due to unintentional injury in Palm Beach County, an age-adjusted death rate of 39.7 per 100,000. Of total unintentional injury deaths, poisoning accounts for 30.8% and fall accounts for 29%. The death rate due to poisoning in Palm Beach County was higher at 15.3 than that of Florida.

Health Resources Availability and Access Profile

This section examines the availability of health care resources and health care access in the community and includes information on health insurance coverage, Federally Qualified Health Centers (FQHCs), health professional shortage areas (HPSAs), and medically underserved populations and areas (MUPs/MUAs), as well as the health care safety net of the community.

- There are 4,369 licensed medical physicians and 975 licensed dentists in Palm Beach County, rates of 323.6 per 100,000 residents and 72.2 per 100,000, respectively, which are higher rates than those of the state.

¹ The Kotelchuck Index uses initiation of prenatal care and number of prenatal visits for calculating adequate prenatal care.

- Palm Beach County has Primary Care Health Professional Shortage Areas at four comprehensive health centers and in seven population groups, five of which are in Bethesda Hospital's primary service areas.
- Palm Beach County has eight Medically Underserved Populations, five of which are in Bethesda Hospital's service areas.
- In 2013, 29.2% of adults in Palm Beach County ages 18-64 years old were uninsured. Lake Worth, (33460) had the highest percent (39.9%) of uninsured individuals for Bethesda Hospital's primary service area in 2013.

Community Perspective

Gathering community perspective is an essential part of the Community Health Needs Assessment by providing insight on health issues in the community and validating quantitative data collected in the demographic and socioeconomic, health status and health resource availability and access profiles. This section reflects the perspective, thoughts, opinions and concerns of key stakeholders and residents in the community, regarding the key health issues in the community, the role of hospitals in the community and the strengths of the community. The Health Council of Southeast Florida conducted six community focus groups and twelve in-depth key informant interviews with community stakeholders to collect information from a cross-section of the community. From the key informant interviews and the focus groups, key health issues and barriers to care were identified, as well as opportunities to note and suggestions, which are listed below.

- **Key Health Issues:**
 - Obesity
 - Diabetes
 - Hypertension
 - Cancer
 - Dental/Oral health
 - Mental health
 - Substance abuse
 - Lack of preventative care
 - Increasing aging population
 - Accessibility and affordability of health care coverage
 - Availability, accessibility and affordability of health care services
- **Barriers to Care:**
 - High cost of health care coverage and health services
 - Transportation
 - Long wait-times and waiting periods for services
 - Language and communication barriers
 - Limited number of providers
 - Lack of awareness of resources
 - Lack of resources in the community
- **Opportunities to Note:**
 - Education
 - Provide quality care with compassion
 - Understanding the communities being served
 - Improve communication with clients
 - Customer Service
 - Engage with community-based organizations
 - Lower costs of health care services
 - Increase the number of staff to alleviate wait-times
 - Increase visibility in communities
- **Suggestions:**
 - Collaborative and strategic thinking to fill gaps
 - Educate community through health fairs
 - Partner with the local community

Bethesda Hospital

Bethesda Hospital's long-standing commitment to the community spans more than 55 years. This commitment has grown and evolved through significant thought and care in considering the community's most pressing health needs. Bethesda Health conducted its last assessment in 2012, however continuously strives to meet the needs of the community by conducting a periodic, comprehensive Community Health Needs Assessment.

- Bethesda Hospital East and West's service areas cover a total of thirty-one ZIP Codes, spanning six cities in Palm Beach County, including: Boynton Beach, Delray Beach, Boca Raton, Greenacres, Palm Springs, and West Palm Beach.
- The total population for Bethesda Hospital's primary service area was 534,491, which accounts for just below 40% of Palm Beach County's population. In 2013, Bethesda Hospital's secondary service area total population was 333,544; individuals in this service area accounted for 25% of Palm Beach County's total population.
- In 2014, Bethesda Hospitals had a total of 481 licensed beds, accounting for 12.2% of all beds licensed in Palm Beach County. Bethesda Hospital East had a total of 401 licensed beds, while Bethesda Hospital West had a total of 80 licensed beds.
- In 2014, Bethesda Hospitals had a total of 19,996 number of admissions, accounting for just over 11% of all admissions in Palm Beach County. Obstetrics- Delivery had the largest percentage of inpatient discharges (14.8%) at Bethesda Hospital East, while at Bethesda Hospital West, the largest numbers of inpatient discharges (15.7%) were attributed to Pulmonary discharges.

Conclusion

Bethesda Hospital convened an Advisory Council of hospital and community stakeholders to evaluate the quantitative and qualitative data presented in the Community Health Needs Assessment and to synthesize a list of priorities through a strategic planning process. Bethesda Hospital will use the Community Health Needs Assessment to create new plans for addressing the unmet needs of the community and strengthen programs already addressing key health issues in the community through the development and implementation of a Community Health Implementation Plan.