



BLUE ZONES®

**WOLFSON CHILDREN'S
HOSPITAL
CHNA**

The Jacksonville Nonprofit
Hospital Partnership

2025



Michael A. Mayo
DHA, FACHE President
and CEO Baptist Health

For nearly 70 years, Baptist Health has been committed to improving the health and well-being of our community. As the only faith-based, locally governed, not-for-profit health system in Northeast Florida, we are doing our part to help people in our community thrive.

To promote good health and prevent illness and injury we have continued our focus on several key initiatives addressing needs identified by the 2022-2024 Community Health Needs Assessment (CHNA), including:

- ✔ **Increasing access to health services for uninsured and underinsured people** through collaborations with WeCare and local safety net clinics, such as Agape, Sulzbacher, and Volunteers in Medicine.
- ✔ **Making life-saving connections for those experiencing drug addiction** through Project Save Lives, a peer-support program that connects patients in Baptist Jacksonville and Baptist North ERs with treatment services after discharge.
- ✔ **Providing a lifeline to vulnerable moms and babies after delivery** through WELLcome Home, a care coordination program that ensures families are connected to the right services and resources to support mom and baby.
- ✔ **Creating health-making environments in health zone 1** by serving as lead investor for the LaVilla Link, a safe, well-lit, and inviting 1.3-mile walking and bike greenway in the heart of Downtown Jacksonville. Once completed, this will link to the 34-mile Emerald Trail, connecting 14 historically marginalized neighborhoods, 21 parks, 16 schools and two colleges, and restoring natural beauty in formerly blighted areas.

We will build on these initiatives as we respond to the 2025-2027 CHNA, working collaboratively with our fellow nonprofit hospitals and other community partners to address root causes of the chronic issues that negatively impact our community’s health and well-being.

On behalf of our team members, medical staff and board of directors, allow me to express heartfelt gratitude to all who share in this difference-making work.

Sincerely,
Michael A. Mayo
DHA, FACHE President and CEO Baptist Health



Allegra Jaros
MBA, President of Wolfson
Children’s Hospital

As the region’s only full-service children’s hospital, Wolfson Children’s is committed to improving the health and well-being of children and families in our community. We recognize that where a child lives, plays and learns are the greatest contributors to health outcomes, and we are dedicated to working collaboratively with the community to improve those environments. The most recent CHNA emphasized the continued challenges the children in our region face; access to healthy food, homelessness, access to mental health, and access to care. We will use these survey results to refine our current efforts and develop new solutions, ensuring all children have the opportunity to thrive.

Allegra Jaros
MBA, president of Wolfson Children’s Hospital



Executive Summary

The Community Health Needs Assessment (CHNA) represents a significant commitment by nonprofit hospitals to improve health outcomes in the communities they serve through rigorous assessment of the community’s health status, incorporation of stakeholders’ perspectives, and adoption of related implementation strategies to address priority health needs. The CHNA is conducted not only to meet federal requirements of the Affordable Care Act of 2010 (“ACA”) and of Section 501(r)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code, but also to guide community investments of nonprofit hospitals that will have a sustainable impact on community health and well-being.

For its 2025 CHNA, The Jacksonville Nonprofit Hospital Partnership, comprised of the five non-profit health systems serving Northeast Florida, selected an approach that would align with and deepen what is already known about the communities they serve. This approach began with a framework that included twelve categories of community health needs commonly identified within the social determinants of health literature and organized across three domains – People, Places and Equity. Each health needs category had several sub-categories, or drivers, associated with it. Using a deductive interview approach, input was gathered from those representing the broad interests of the communities served, including local public health representatives, community-based organizations, and medical providers. Input was also gathered from under-resourced populations and community members experiencing health needs through intercept surveys conducted in the five-county region.



Using the primary data collected from interviews and community members as well as secondary data sources, a prioritization analysis was conducted across all twelve health needs categories and their drivers to determine the most significant health needs. The four health needs categories scoring the highest, along with the highest scoring drivers for each are:

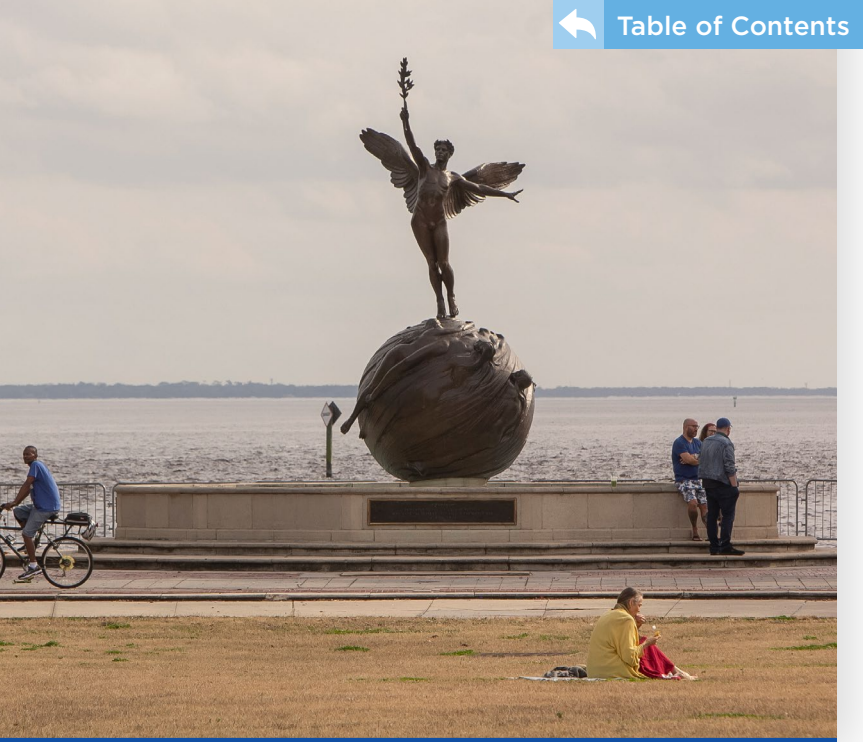
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1. Access to Care
 - Health Insurance
 - Transportation
- 

2. Housing
 - Housing Cost Burden
 - Homelessness
- 

3. Mental Health
 - Access to Mental Health Care
- 

4. Food Environment
 - Access to Healthy Food
 - Food Insecurity



In the remainder of this report, you will find information and details related to:

- ✓ The Jacksonville Nonprofit Hospital Partnership, Wolfson Children’s Hospital, and the communities they serve (Section I)
- ✓ The Community Health Improvement Strategies implemented following the prior CHNA (Section II)
- ✓ A Deep Dive into the top four prioritized significant health needs (Section III)
- ✓ The process used to determine the prioritized significant health needs (Section IV)



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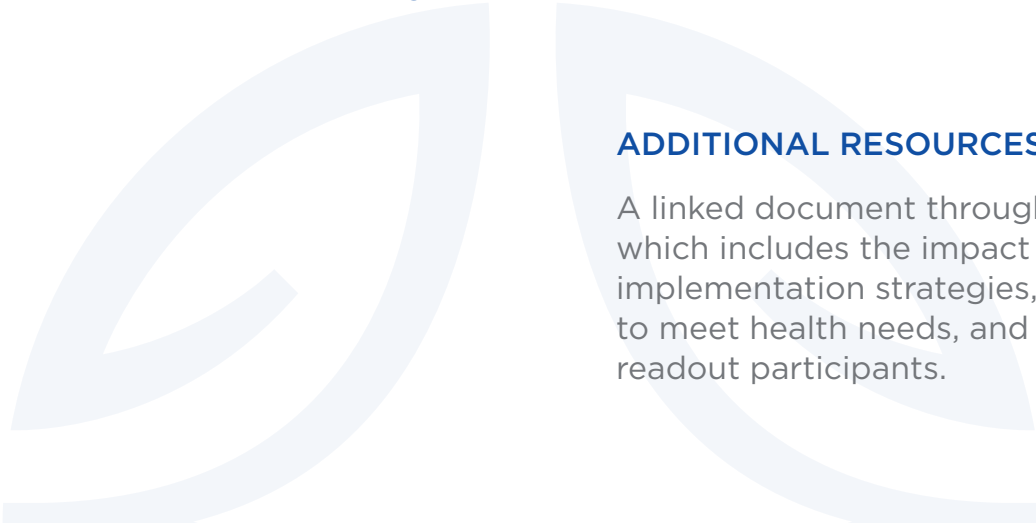
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ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

A linked document throughout the report which includes the impact evaluation of the implementation strategies, the resources to meet health needs, and the list of the readout participants.



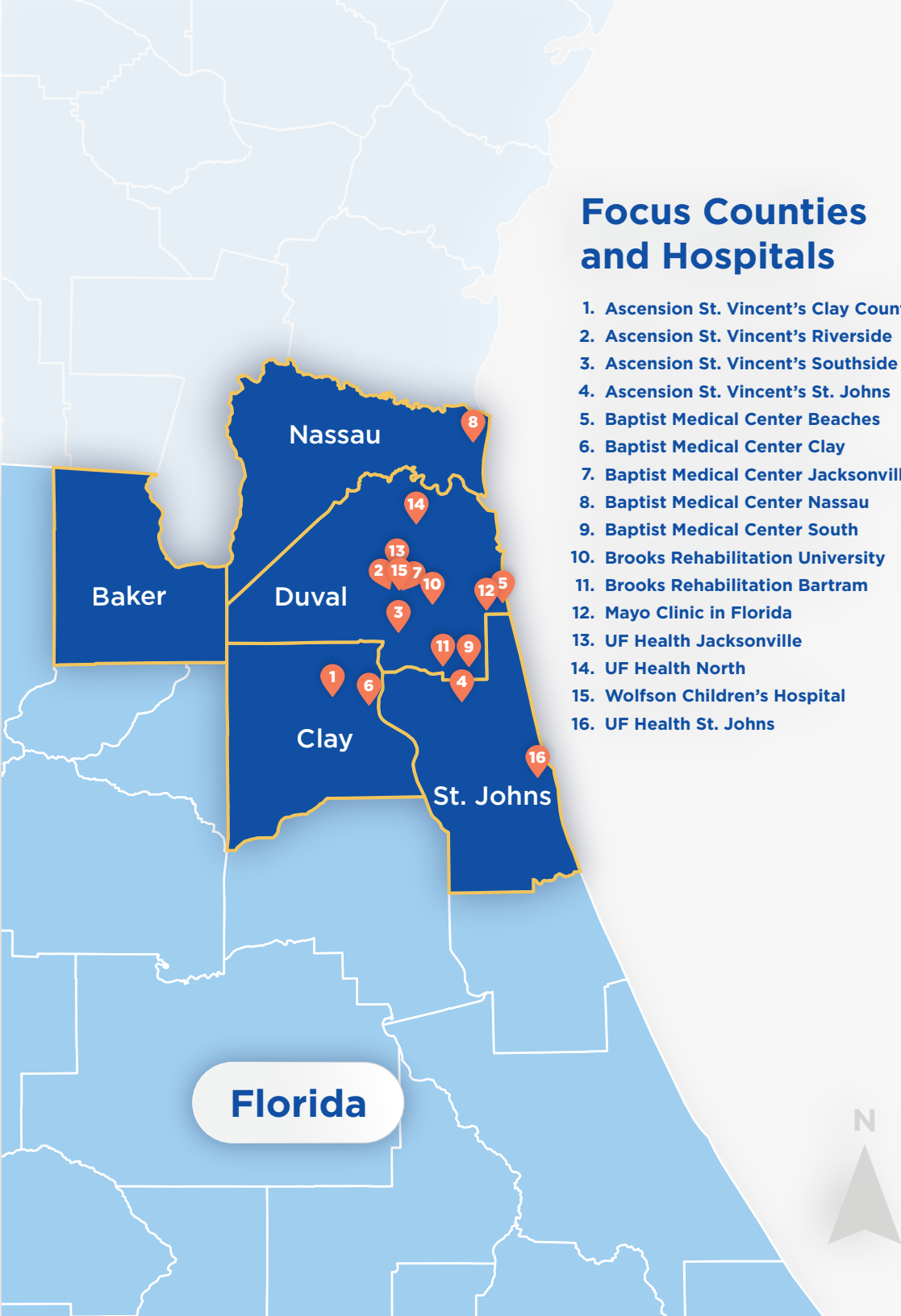


Section I

About Us

About the Jacksonville Nonprofit Hospital Partnership

The Jacksonville Nonprofit Hospital Partnership (JNHP) is comprised of the comprehensive network of nonprofit hospitals and health systems in Northeast Florida, which is a key region in Florida’s healthcare landscape. The region comprises five counties: Baker, Clay, Duval, Nassau, and St. Johns and includes the top-rated healthcare systems of Ascension St. Vincent’s, Baptist Health, Brooks Rehabilitation, Mayo Clinic in Florida, and University of Florida Health. Collectively, the health systems operate sixteen hospitals in the region (see map), with the newest being UF Health St. Johns. UF Health acquired Flagler Health+ in 2023, renaming it UF Health St. Johns. The JNHP added UF Health St. Johns to its partnership in August 2024, allowing for the alignment of the CHNA process and timing with all UF Health hospitals.



This robust network of hospitals ensures that residents have access to a wide range of services, from primary care to emergency services and specialized medical treatments. The presence of leading institutions such as Mayo Clinic and the strong academic and clinical research focus of the UF Health facilities highlights the region’s commitment to advanced health care provision and cutting-edge medical research. The health care infrastructure of the region not only supports local communities but also attracts patients from across the United States, contributing significantly to the region’s economy and positioning Northeast Florida as a hub for medical excellence.

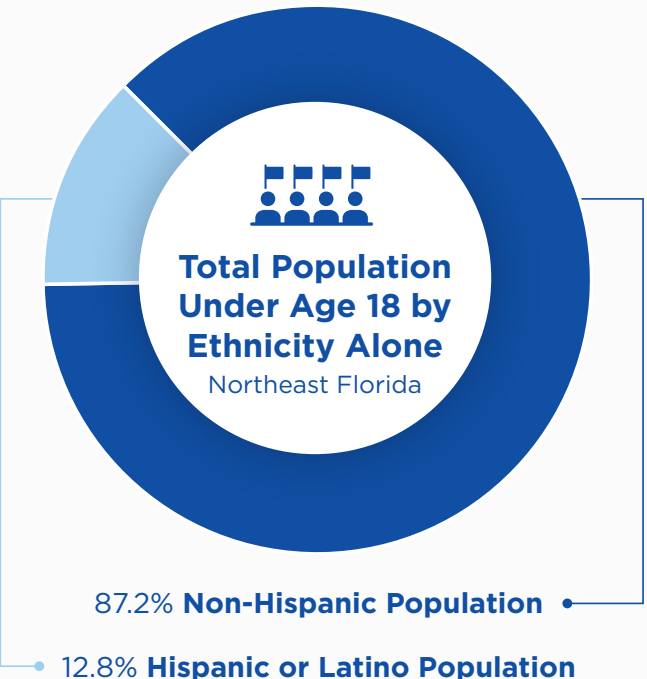
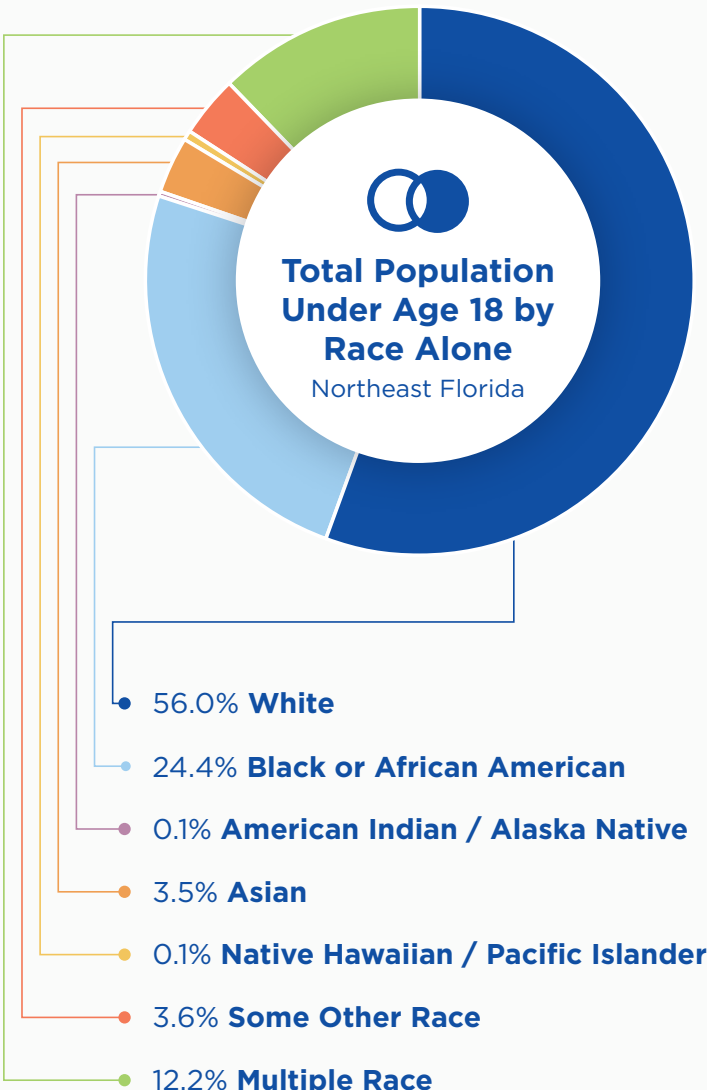
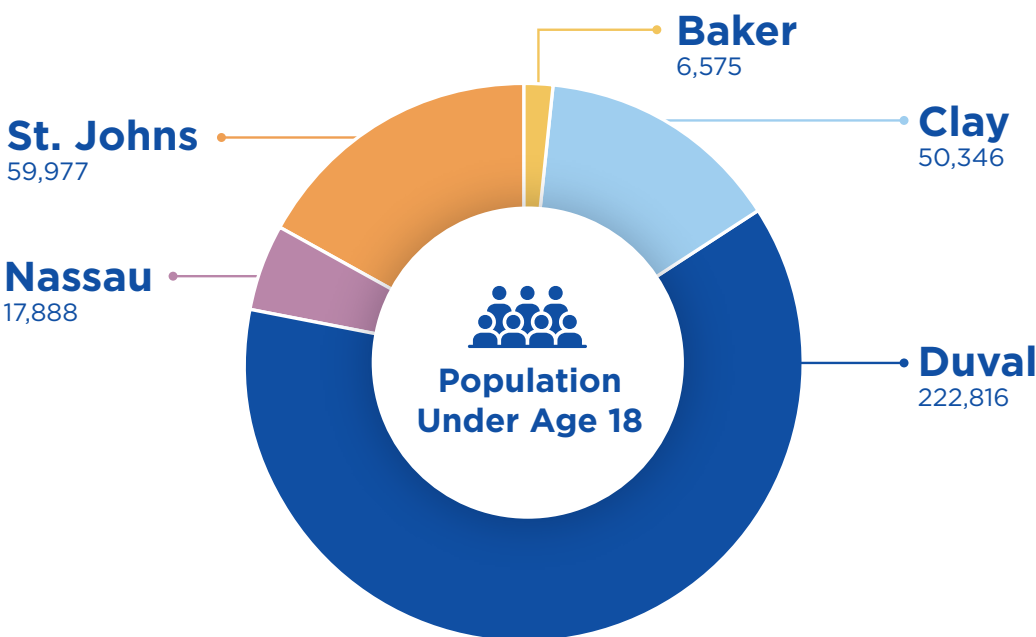
About Wolfson Children’s Hospital

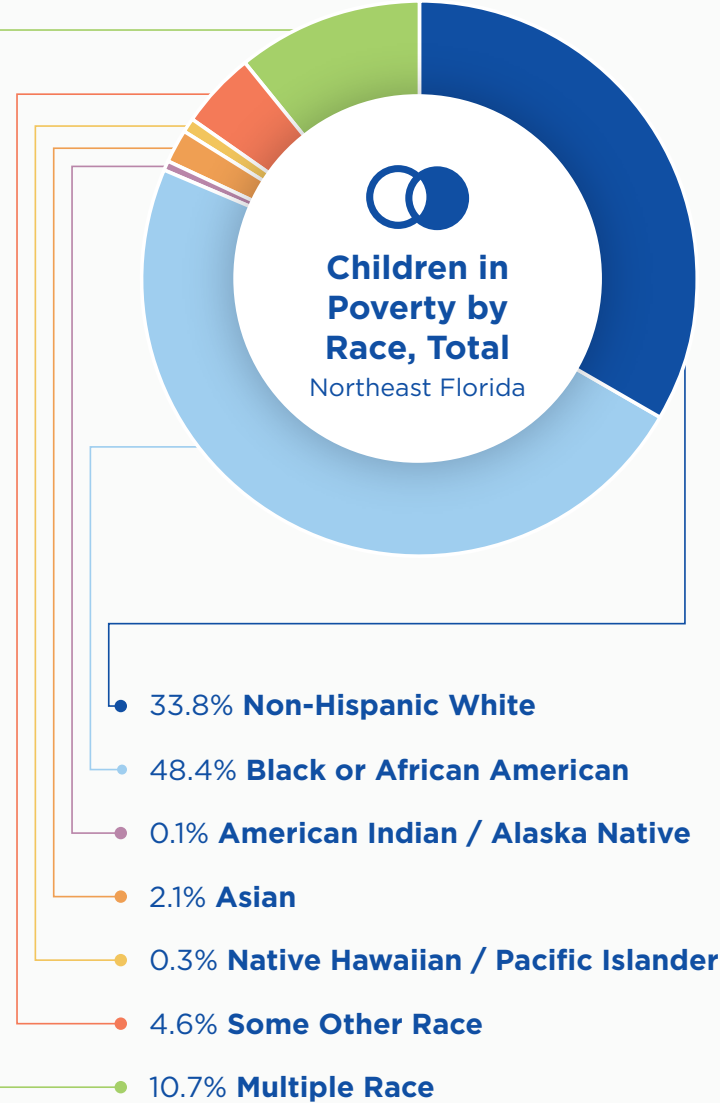
Wolfson Children’s Hospital (Wolfson’s), a part of Baptist Health, is a nationally ranked, non-profit, pediatric acute care hospital located in Jacksonville, Florida. The facility has 281 beds and annually cares for over 13,000 hospitalized children, treats more than 100,000 children in its Emergency Centers, and performs nearly 11,000 surgeries. The hospital provides comprehensive pediatric care through more than 40 pediatric medical and surgical specialties at its main campus, six specialty centers, and six satellite ER’s. It is the primary pediatric teaching affiliate of the University of Florida College of Medicine-Jacksonville, the Florida branch of the Mayo Clinic, and Nemours Children’s Health. Wolfson Children’s Hospital also features the only Florida Department of Health-designated pediatric trauma referral center in Jacksonville, Florida, and the only American College of Surgeons-verified, Level 1 pediatric trauma center in the region. The hospital is situated on the St. Johns River waterfront in Downtown Jacksonville and is part of a large medical complex which also includes Baptist Medical Center Jacksonville, Baptist MD Anderson Cancer Center, and Nemours Children’s Clinic.

Who We Serve

Wolfson’s serves the five-county region in Northeast Florida which has a combined total population of nearly 1.7 million people spanning 3,200 square miles, with Duval County comprising 62% of that population. Although those numbers reflect the total population, Wolfson’s serves the children of this region.

Nearly 360,000 children live in Northeast Florida, 56% of whom are white and 87.2% are Not Hispanic / Latino. Of these children, 17%, or nearly 60,000, live below 100% of the federal poverty level. This rate is higher (worse) than the U.S. (16.66%) and lower (better) than Florida overall (17.69%). The distribution from a race perspective is inequitable with 48.4% of children living in poverty identifying as Black or African American. Access to Head Start, a program designed to help children from birth to age 5 who come from families at or below poverty level is challenged, with only 6.52 programs per 10,000 children under age five. This compares poorly with the U.S. (10.53) and with the Florida (9.44). Teen births and infant mortality also fare poorly in this region, with 11.04 births per 1,000 teens (U.S., 9.63; Florida,7.01) and 7.1 infant deaths per 1,000 live births (U.S., 5.7; Florida, 6.0). The infant mortality by race and ethnicity also shows an inequitable distribution, with Non-Hispanic Black infants dying at a higher rate.





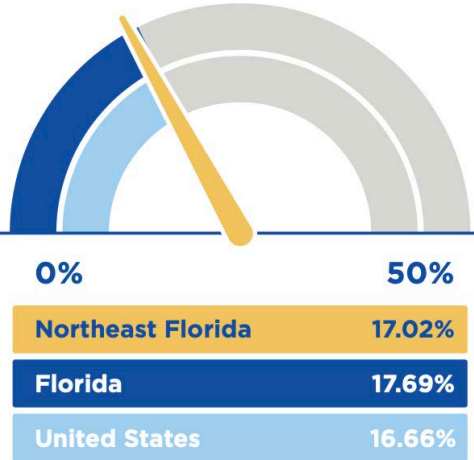
Throughout this report, **orange** boxes and needles reflect that the respective value is unfavorable to Florida; **Yellow** reflects that it is favorable to Florida.

POVERTY

Children Below 100% FPL

In Northeast Florida 17.02% or 59,988 children aged 0-17 are living in households with income below the Federal Poverty Level (FPL). This indicator is relevant because poverty creates barriers to access including health services, healthy food, and other necessities that contribute to poor health status.

Population Under Age 18 in Poverty, Percent



Report Area	Total Population	Population Under Age 18	Population Under Age 18 in Poverty	Population Under Age 18 in Poverty, Percent
Northeast Florida	1,580,142	352,441	59,988	17.02%
Baker County, FL	24,834	6,403	1,215	18.98%
Clay County, FL	217,314	49,431	6,753	13.66%
Duval County, FL	971,889	219,872	45,279	20.59%
Nassau County, FL	90,614	17,625	2,328	13.21%
St. Johns County, FL	275,491	59,080	4,413	7.47%
Florida	21,171,700	4,168,491	737,567	17.69%
United States	323,275,448	72,035,358	12,002,351	16.66%

Note: This indicator is compared to the state average.
Data Source: US Census Bureau, American Community Survey. 2018-22.

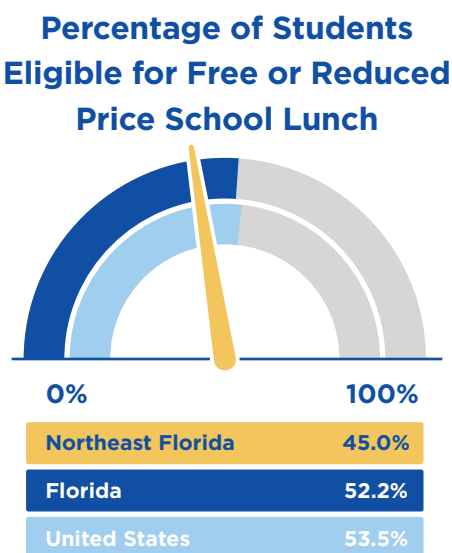
POVERTY

Children Eligible for Free/Reduced Price Lunch

Free or reduced price lunches are served to qualifying students in families with income between under 185 percent (reduced price) or under 130 percent (free lunch) of the US federal poverty threshold as part of the federal National School Lunch Program (NSLP).

Out of 238,840 total public school students in Northeast Florida, 107,529 were eligible for the free or reduced price lunch program in the latest report year. This represents 45.0% of public school students, which is lower than the state average of 52.2%.

Note: States with more than 80% records “not reported” are suppressed for all geographic areas, including hospital service area, census tract, zip code, school district, county, state, etc.



Report Area	Total Students	Students Eligible for Free or Reduced Price Lunch	Students Eligible for Free or Reduced Price Lunch, Percent
Northeast Florida	238,840	107,529	45.0%
Baker County, FL	5,003	2,551	51.0%
Clay County, FL	38,995	23,022	59.0%
Duval County, FL	131,606	67,369	51.2%
Nassau County, FL	12,588	5,426	43.1%
St. Johns County, FL	50,648	9,161	18.1%
Florida	2,870,488	1,499,480	52.2%
United States	46,791,755	24,677,523	53.5%

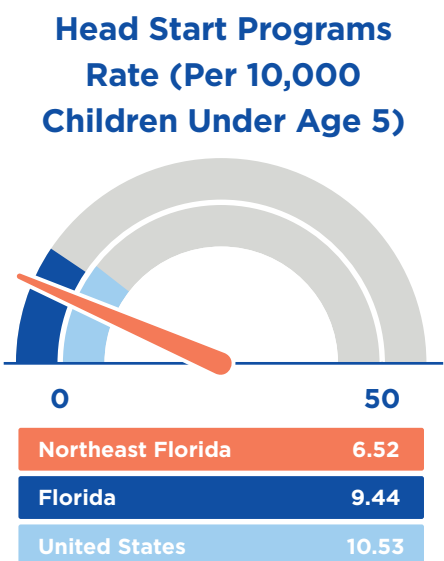
Note: This indicator is compared to the state average.
Data Source: National Center for Education Statistics, NCES - Common Core of Data. 2022-2023.

ACCESS

Head Start

Head Start is a program designed to help children from birth to age five who come from families at or below poverty level. The program’s goal is to help children become ready for kindergarten while also providing the needed requirements to thrive, including health care and food support.

This indicator reports the number and the rate of Head Start program facilities per 10,000 children under age 5. Head Start facility data is acquired from the US Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) 2022 Head Start locator. Population data is from the 2010 US Decennial Census. The report area has a total of 57 Head Start programs with a rate of 6.52 per 10,000 children under 5 years old.

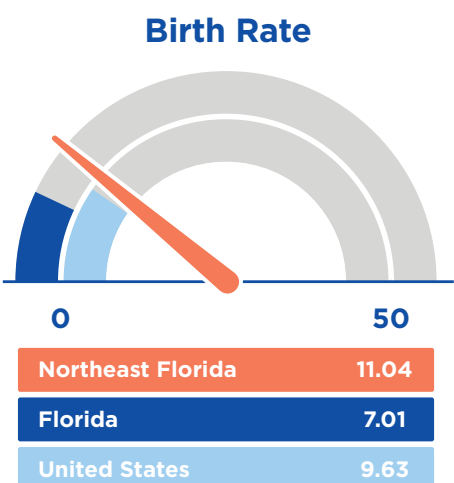


Report Area	Children Under Age 5	Total Head Start Programs	Head Start Programs, Rate (Per 10,000 Children Under Age 5)
Northeast Florida	87,392	57	6.52
Baker County, FL	1,933	3	15.52
Clay County, FL	11,869	5	4.21
Duval County, FL	59,501	39	6.55
Nassau County, FL	3,983	3	7.53
St. Johns County, FL	10,106	7	6.93
Florida	1,073,506	1,013	9.44
United States	20,426,118	21,511	10.53

Note: This indicator is compared to the state average.
Data Source: US Department of Health and Human Services, HRSA - Administration for Children and Families. 2022

Teen Births (ACS)

Based on American Community Survey 2018-2022 5-year estimates, there was an average of 11.04 births for every 1,000 teens (age 15-19) in Northeast Florida.



Report Area	Females Age 15 to 19	Births to Teens	Births per 1,000 Teens
Northeast Florida	47,394	523	11.04
Baker County, FL	669	0	0.00
Clay County, FL	7,185	52	7.24
Duval County, FL	28,994	468	16.14
Nassau County, FL	2,050	3	1.46
St. Johns County, FL	8,496	0	0.00
Florida	614,204	4,307	7.01
United States	10,683,985	102,904	9.63

Note: This indicator is compared to the state average.
Data Source: IS Census Bureau, American Community Survey. 2018-22.

BIRTH OUTCOMES

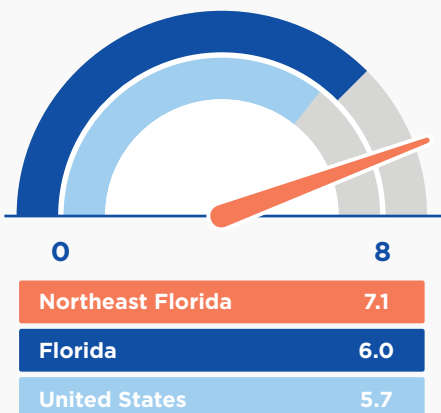
Infant Mortality (CDC)

This indicator reports information about infant mortality, which is defined as the number of all infant deaths (within 1 year) per 1,000 live births. Data were from the National Center for Health Statistics - Mortality Files (2015-2021) and are used for the 2024 County Health Rankings.

Within the report area, 936 infants died during the 2015-21 seven year period. This represents 7.1 deaths per 1,000 live births.

Note: Data are suppressed for counties with fewer than 20 infant deaths in the time frame.

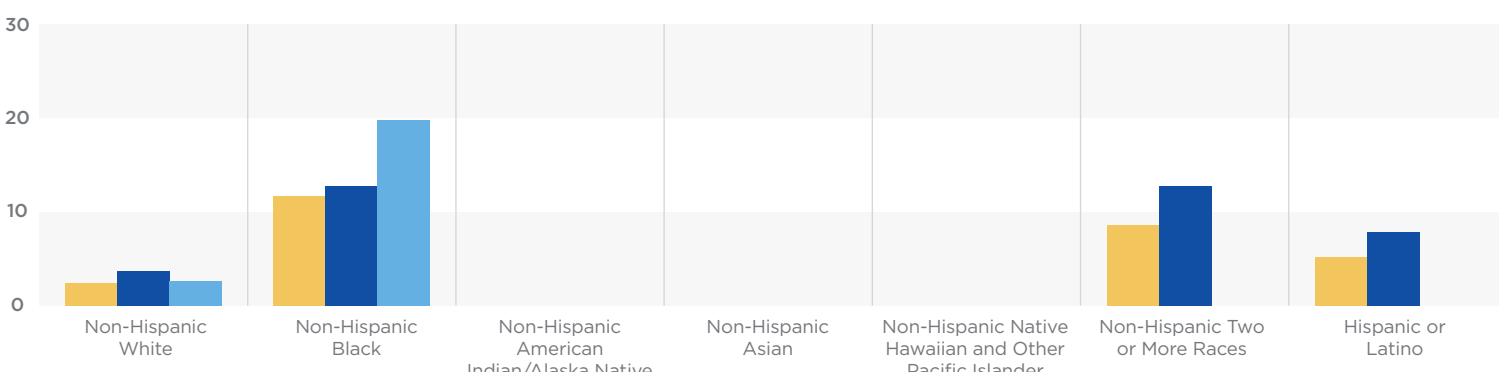
Infant Mortality Rate per 1,000 Births



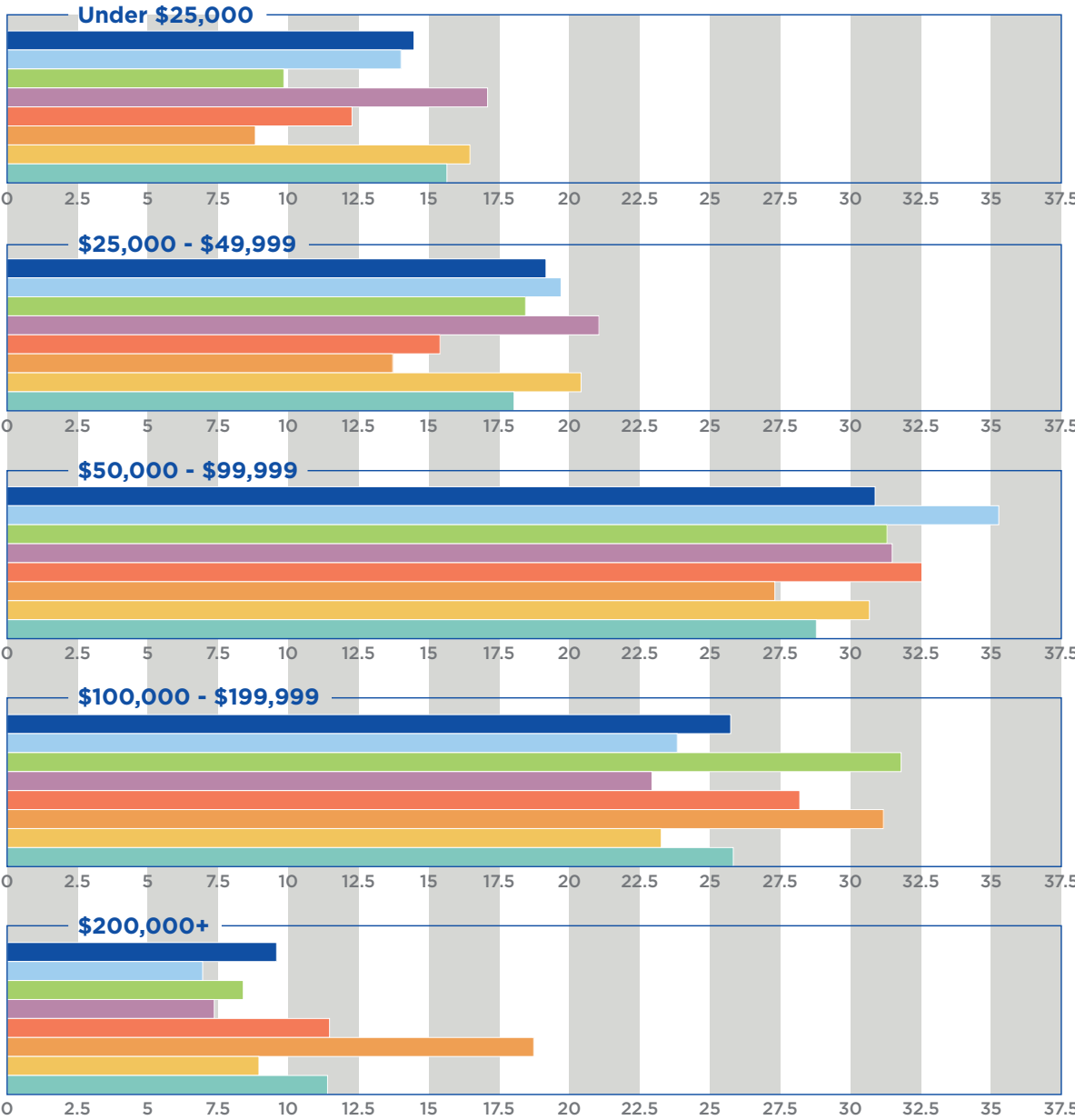
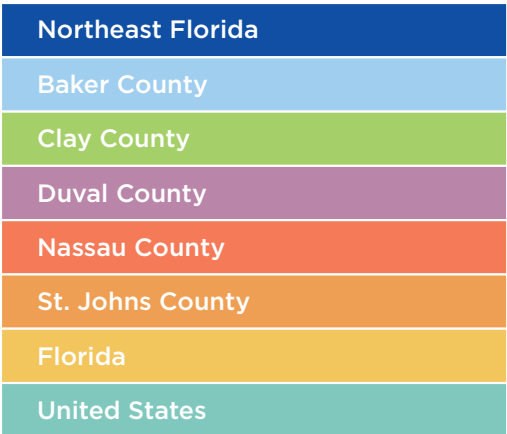
Report Area	Number of Infant Deaths	Deaths per 1,000 Live Births
Northeast Florida	936	7.1
Baker County, FL	20	8.0
Clay County, FL	81	5.0
Duval County, FL	729	8.0
Nassau County, FL	30	5.0
St. Johns County, FL	76	5.0
Florida	9,283	6.0
United States	150,841	5.7

Note: This indicator is compared to the state average.
Data Source: University of Wisconsin Population Health Institute, County Health Rankings. 2015-2021.

Infant Mortality Rate per 1,000 Live Births by Race/Ethnicity



Households by Household Income Levels Percent



JNHP Hospitals’ Service Area

For reference, the specific Northeast Florida counties served by each hospital in the JNHP is set forth in the table below. Notably, the specialty hospitals - Brooks Rehabilitation Hospital and Wolfson Children’s Hospital - serve all five counties as regional referral centers.

Hospitals	Hospital Campus Service Areas				
	Clay	Duval	St. Johns	Nassau	Baker
Ascension St. Vincent’s Clay County	✓				
Baptist Medical Center Clay	✓				
Ascension St. Vincent’s Riverside		✓			
Ascension St. Vincent’s Southside		✓			
Baptist Medical Center Jacksonville		✓			
UF Health Jacksonville		✓			
Baptist Medical Center South		✓	✓		
Baptist Medical Center Beaches		✓	✓		
Mayo Clinic in Florida		✓	✓		
Ascension St. Vincent’s St. Johns		✓	✓		
UF Health North		✓		✓	
Baptist Medical Center Nassau				✓	
UF Health St. Johns			✓		
Wolfson Children’s Hospital	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Brooks Rehabilitation (2 campuses)	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓



Section II

Prior CHNA Successes and Impacts

Before we look ahead, it’s helpful to gain perspective by looking back at the 2022 CHNA prioritized health needs to understand what has been accomplished over the last three years. Nine themes emerged from the 2022 CHNA, with mental health, access to care and poverty prioritized as the top three, respectively. Once the health needs were prioritized, each health system and its affiliated hospitals determined the health needs each would respond to and identified associated implementation strategies.

Of the nine significant health needs, the JNHP hospitals collectively responded to seven, with each responding to at least one of the top three prioritized health needs. For purposes of this review, several strategies were categorized to the theme that mostly closely aligned to it based on social determinants of health categories and sub-categories. For example, the strategy “increase access to healthy food, e.g., screening, SNAP, food” was categorized under poverty, recognizing that income is often a component of healthy food access.

Collectively, the sixteen hospitals implemented, supported or continued over 100 unique strategies. A sample of the strategies the JNHP hospitals implemented is provided on the next page, followed by impact highlights of several of the strategies implemented by Baptist Health. For a full listing of Baptist Health’s strategies by health need theme, please see the [Additional Resources Appendix](#).



2022 CHNA Examples of Response Strategies Across all JNHP Hospitals



Mental Health

Offer **Mental Health First Aid**.

Implement **Calm Classroom**.

Offer family education on **Lethal Means Safety**.

Provide Senior-to-Senior **Friendly Callers** program.

Fund **Rethreaded**, which provides support and resources to survivors of human trafficking.



Access to Care

Provide **virtual care visits**.

Implement **Findhelp** agency referral system.

Operate **School Health Centers**.

Partner with organizations who provide access to care for those **without insurance**.

Supplement staff for **Volunteers in Medicine** clinic, including cardiology, gastroenterology, gynecology, and internal medicine.



Poverty / Economic Stability

Increase Access to **healthy food** (screening, SNAP, food).

Increase employment opportunities focusing on low life expectancy zip codes.

Ensure **seniors have access** to in-home and other supports for health and well-being, including **food**.



Chronic Disease

Provide **asthma education** to children with asthma.

Provide a **food pharmacy** program to address diabetes, obesity & hypertension.

Provide **Community Benefit Programming** to address the lack of services available to individuals with a differing ability.



Maternal & Child Health

Bring **Think First** (brain & spinal cord injury prevention program) training to the children of northeast Florida.

Partner with the Northeast Florida **Healthy Start Coalition** to address needs of moms and babies.

Impact Highlights

Baptist Medical Center Beaches, Jacksonville, Nassau, South, and Wolfson Children's, in partnership with Starting Point Behavioral Health Care, collectively trained **4,128** people in **Mental Health First Aid (MHFA)**. This includes 990 people trained in adult MHFA, 1,670 people trained in youth MHFA, and 1,468 tenth graders (Nassau County) trained. This exceeded the stated goal of training 1,500 people by 2024.

In an effort to increase employment opportunities, the **Baptist Health Clinical School** has trained 22 community members in its CNA course and hired 21 of them. An additional 48 students have completed Construction Ready courses, with 41 of them securing employment. From October 1, 2022 to September 30, 2023, BMC hired 611 people (12% of all new hires) from economically disadvantaged zip codes.



4,128

trained people

Mental Health First Aid

990

adult mental health training

1,670

youth mental health training

1,468

tenth graders

Through its initiative to achieve **Cribs for Kids National Safe Sleep Hospital Certification**, designated to hospitals that model and teach infant safe sleep best practices, Baptist Health offered classes on infant safe sleep practices and worked to increase the awareness of mothers / families regarding safe sleep practices. The impact of these programs included 1,426 adults provided safe sleep education, 532,207 media impressions covering safe sleep education, 587 participants in First Year Baby Safety Essentials, 35 Pack N Plays distributed, 4,530 Safe Sleep Kits distributed, and 93 students participated in Safe Sitter classes.

As a long-term strategy to impact overall health and well-being, **Baptist Health invested in Blue Zones Project Jacksonville**, a 5-year commitment designed to ensure that all people have a fair and just opportunity to live a long and healthy life. Through the design and implementation of its efforts, Blue Zones Project Jacksonville will seek to increase individual, organizational, and community well-being through community-driven policy, systems, and environmental change that advances health equity. This will include targeted programming that mitigates barriers, including providing translations, meals, access to public transportation, and events where people who have historically experienced discrimination specifically feel welcome and are able to participate. [Blue Zones Project Jacksonville](#)

1,426

adults provided **safe sleep education**

532,207

media impressions covering **safe sleep education**

587

participants in **First Year Baby Safety Essentials**

35

Pack N Plays distributed

4,530

Safe Sleep Kits distributed

93

students participated in **Safe Sitter** classes





Section III

Prioritized Significant Health Needs

Primary and Secondary Data Overview

The Community Health Needs Assessment was developed using four separate sources of primary and secondary data. This mixed methods approach is considered a preferred practice for needs assessments because it allows for the greatest understanding of community needs from the broadest range of perspectives. Primary data refers to data collected and analyzed specifically for this project, while secondary data refers to data compiled and analyzed by external groups and used here.

Qualitative primary data collection involved group listening sessions with local service providers and individual key stakeholder interviews with local leaders. These were conducted in person and virtually. Additional qualitative primary data was collected with community members experiencing health needs through intercept surveys across the five-county region. These community conversations were conducted in person. Secondary data was amassed and analyzed across an extensive number of data sets by the University of Missouri Center for Applied Research and Engagement System (CARES) and accessed through its SparksMap online platform.

The JNHP team identified service providers and community-based organizations who work with vulnerable populations to ensure that the voices of those with with chronic disease or low income, who are unhoused or are veterans, who identify as LGBTQ+, or who are otherwise under resourced were heard.

In total, we offered 21 key stakeholder interview appointments and 27 group listening sessions from April 9, 2024 through May 13, 2024. Despite the JNHP’s best efforts, attendance was lower than anticipated. Of those 48 key stakeholder interview or group listening session opportunities, 31 or 65% were attended. Four of the group listening sessions were attended by just one person and we re-classified those as key stakeholder interviews. We also conducted 72 community conversations in the form of intercept surveys across the five counties from May 7, 2024 through May 10, 2024.

Given that the total sample size was just over 200 and we reached a saturation point of the same needs emerging from all interviews, we are confident that the qualitative data is reflective of the region. This is further reinforced by the fact that, although a majority of organizations participated in interviews held in Duval County, many of them have a regional or multi-county focus and spoke on behalf of more than one county.

Group Listening Sessions (GLS)

- ✓ Twenty-seven (27) offered, fifteen (15) attended
- ✓ One Hundred Nine (109) people participated

Group listening comments and input were gathered during in-person and virtual sessions, typically running 60 minutes.

Key Stakeholder Interviews (KSI)

- ✓ Twenty-one (21) offered, sixteen (16) attended

During the 60-minute interview, key stakeholders shared their greatest concerns around health needs, health equity, and social determinants of health for those they serve.

Community Conversations (CC)

- ✓ Seventy-two (72) conversations

Input was gathered through structured conversations held over 15-20 minutes.

Participant Attendance

County	TOTAL	KSI	GLS	CC
Duval	126	7	89	30
St. Johns	15	2	5	8
Clay	31	6	7	18
Baker	7	1	0	6
Nassau	22	4	8	10
	201	20	109	72



Participating Organizations

Ability Housing	Duval County Public Schools
Agape Health and Wellness Center, Inc.	ElderSource
Ascension St. Vincent’s St. Johns	Family Promise
Baptist Medical Center - Beaches	Family Support Services (FSS)
Baptist Medical Center - Clay	Fernandina Beach Pride
Baptist Medical Center - Jacksonville	First Coast News
Baptist Medical Center - Nassau	First Coast YMCA
Baptist Medical Center - South	Flagler Health
Barnabas Center	Florida Department of Health - Baker
Blue Zones	Florida Department of Health - Nassau
Brooks Rehabilitation	Homeless Veteran Reintegration Program (HVRP)
Center for Independent Living Jax	Hubbard House
Challenge Enterprise / Food for Clay	Impact Church & Revitalize Arlington
Changing Homelessness, Inc. (CHI)	Jacksonville Area Sexual Minority Youth Network (JASMYN)
City of Jacksonville	Jacksonville Housing Authority (JHA)
Clay County (Board of County Commissioners)	Jacksonville Speech & Hearing Center
Council on Aging of St. Johns County	Jacksonville Transportation Authority
Daniel Memorial Baptist Church	Jax Care Connect

Jewish Family and Community Services	THE PLAYERS Center for Child Health
Lift Jax	
Local Initiative Support Corporation (LISC)	The Women’s Center of Jacksonville
Mayo Clinic in Florida	
Micah’s Place	UF Health Jacksonville - Urban Health Alliance
Nassau County Council on Aging	
Northeast Florida Healthy Start	Volunteers in Medicine
Northeast Florida Women Veterans	
Presbyterian Social Ministries, Inc. (PSM)	Walmart Health
Starting Point Behavioral Health	
Sulzbacher	Wolfson Children’s Hospital

Community Conversation Locations

- ✓ Duval County – Sulzbacher Center, Brooks Rehab Clinics
- ✓ Clay County – Mission of Dirt Road, Clothes Closet, Salvation Army Food Pantry
- ✓ Nassau County – YMCA
- ✓ Baker County – Florida Department of Health Clinics, Waffle House
- ✓ St. Johns County – Strip Mall / Store Fronts

Significant Health Needs

Based on mathematical analysis of the primary and secondary data, six of the twelve initial health needs were first determined to be significant, and then prioritized in order using a priority index scoring methodology (see Section IV for full prioritization methodology). This ranking was affirmed by the JNHP team and invited community members following a presentation and discussion of the data and methodology held on June 18, 2024. For a list of those who participated, please see the [Additional Resources Appendix](#)..

High Priority Needs		
1	Access to Care	Drivers of ranking were health insurance and transportation.
2	Housing	Drivers of ranking were housing cost burden and homelessness.
3	Mental Health	Driver of ranking was access to mental health care.
4	Food Environment	Drivers of ranking were healthy food access and food insecurity.
Lower Priority Needs		
5	Built Environment	With just 0.84% of the population using public transit to commute to work (U.S. is 3.79%) and a road network density score of 4.33 (U.S. is 1.64), it is understandable that many people spoke to the need for public transit. Citing the need for benches and shade structures, people also spoke to the need for an increase in walkability and accessibility.
6	Community Safety	People spoke to crime in certain areas, primarily in Duval County. This perception is supported by the data – property crime and violent crime (assault, rape, robbery) rates are all worse than both the state and the U.S., with Duval County largely driving the regional rate.





PRIORITY 1

Access to Care

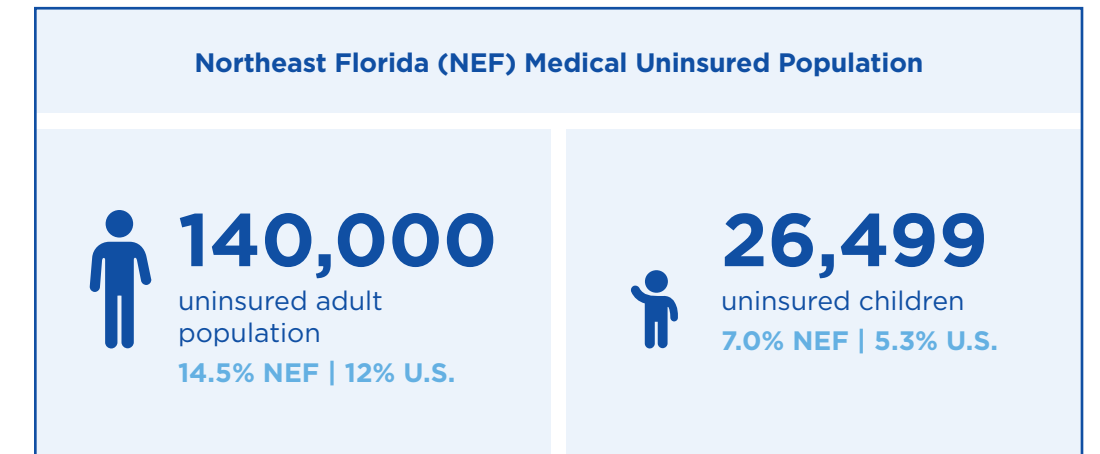
Health Insurance and Transportation

Access to health care was identified as a health need in every key stakeholder and group listening session. Similarly, 60% of the people we spoke to in the community conversations also identified access to health care as a health need. Despite other sub-categories of access to care being available for identification as a health need, such as primary care, dental care, hospitals, specialty care, etc., the two areas that were identified repeatedly as barriers to accessing health care were health insurance and transportation.

Health Insurance

Only 18% of the population in the Northeast Florida region has Medicaid. Although lower than both Florida (19.96%) and the U.S. (22.34%), lower is not necessarily a good thing when considered within the context of those who are uninsured. The uninsured adult population is 14.5 % (U.S. is 12%). This means that over 140,000 adults living in Northeast Florida are without insurance. Similarly, 7% of children are uninsured (U.S. is 5.3%). When broken down by gender, adult males are the most uninsured at 11.53%, compared to females at 9.12% (U.S. comparison is 9.72% and 7.67% respectively). This current state of uninsured people in Northeast Florida is, in part, a result of the convergence of two factors - that Florida did not expand its Medicaid coverage under the Affordable Care Act and over 450,000 people are living below 200% of the federal poverty limit, putting them at a higher risk of not being able to afford health insurance.

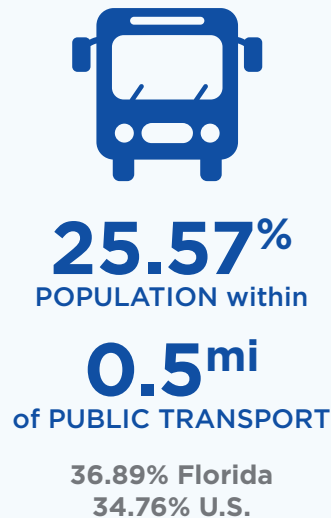
In addition to the lack of health insurance and its affordability, many people spoke to the limited coverage offered by many of the lower cost Marketplace plans and the complicated nature of health insurance applications and policies – especially for those with limited education and language proficiency.



Data Sources: See pages 46 and 47.

Transportation

Similarly, the issue of transportation as a barrier to accessing health care came up in resounding measure. The Northeast Florida region has virtually no public transit system. Overall, only 25.57% of the population lives within a half-mile of public transit. Not only is this poor in relation to the state (36.89%) and the U.S. (34.76%), but two of the counties, Nassau and Baker, have no one living within that distance to public transit. And, although it may seem reasonable to access public transit if a person lives within a half-mile of it, that is not the case for those with any disability, prohibitive health condition, or any other variety of issues that makes a half-mile walk impossible.



Data Source: See page 50

Although having a limited public transit system to access health care is problematic, it also affects accessing healthy food, another factor that is essential for optimal health. In this Northeast Florida region, over 420,000 people, or 31.36% are living with low food access, which is defined as living more than 1 mile (urban) or 10 miles (rural) from the nearest grocery store. This compares poorly to both the state (25.07%) and the U.S. (22.2%). When so many people with low food access also do not have a public transit system, those conditions layer upon each other, creating an increased risk of poor health outcomes.



Primary Data Source Comments

Health Insurance

“Insurance doesn’t cover prescription costs and they stop taking medications or ration it because they can’t afford it.”

“I think the [health care] marketplace is still pricing people out.”

“The insurance barriers, particularly as it relates to Medicaid, is huge, and that prevents folks from getting into timely care.”

“I also want to bring up a huge issue that’s new in our community around insurance. There are some really bad new insurance companies that are coming on board that are using fraudulent ways to enroll people in insurance.”

“Even if you’ve got ACA insurance for example, sometimes the deductibles are so high that you can’t do it. And then Florida has never implemented the Medicaid component.”

“If I’m underinsured or no insurance, I can’t get somewhere. Yeah, I can get to a free clinic maybe for primary care, but who’s gonna do my hip? And then so, yeah, who’s gonna do my hip or who’s gonna take out my gallbladder unless I go to the emergency room and it’s forced, right?”

“We see all these families that their insurance inhibits where they can see that specialty care.”

Transportation

“We’re 900 square miles. And if you try to get from one side of town to an appointment on the other side of town, it could be two and a half hours plus a bus transfer if you can get to transportation.”

“But in transportation, I hear about being a challenge for people. You know, they don’t have the transportation to get to the health care.”

“And I know there’s people out in Clay County that can’t get transportation to come here to Jacksonville for the rehabilitation pieces that they need.”

“I’ve had elderly people. How about get to the bus stop? Say there’s no bench at the bus stop. It’s just the sign that’s out. And you have to get to the bus stop if you’re in a wheelchair or a walker. And no sidewalk.”

“So, there aren’t too many transportation companies in Jacksonville, Nassau, that, you know. Well, they vary, and there’s like one.”

“We’re so spread out, but so I would say more public transit because we’re so spread out. We have a lot of room for improvement in our public transit transportation system.”

“Yeah. We have a terrible history here. We used to have incredible public transportation to all the neighborhoods, but it was by rail car. Trolley car. And there were in the 60s and 70s, there was this move that no, no, no, everyone should have their own car. So they dismantled all that and ended up leaving pockets of neighborhoods completely disconnected.”

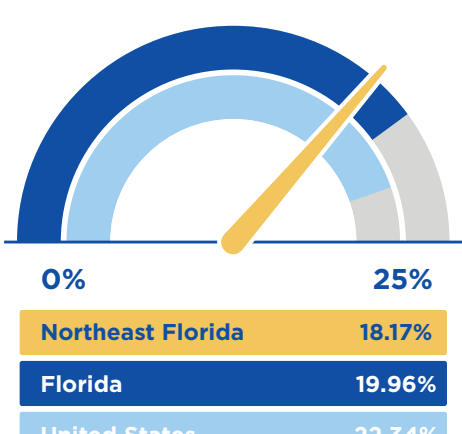
Secondary Data Summary

INSURANCE

Population Receiving Medicaid

This indicator reports the percentage of the population with insurance enrolled in Medicaid (or other means-tested public health insurance). This indicator is relevant because it assesses vulnerable populations which are more likely to have multiple health access, health status, and social support needs; when combined with poverty data, providers can use this measure to identify gaps in eligibility and enrollment.

Percent of Insured Population Receiving Medicaid

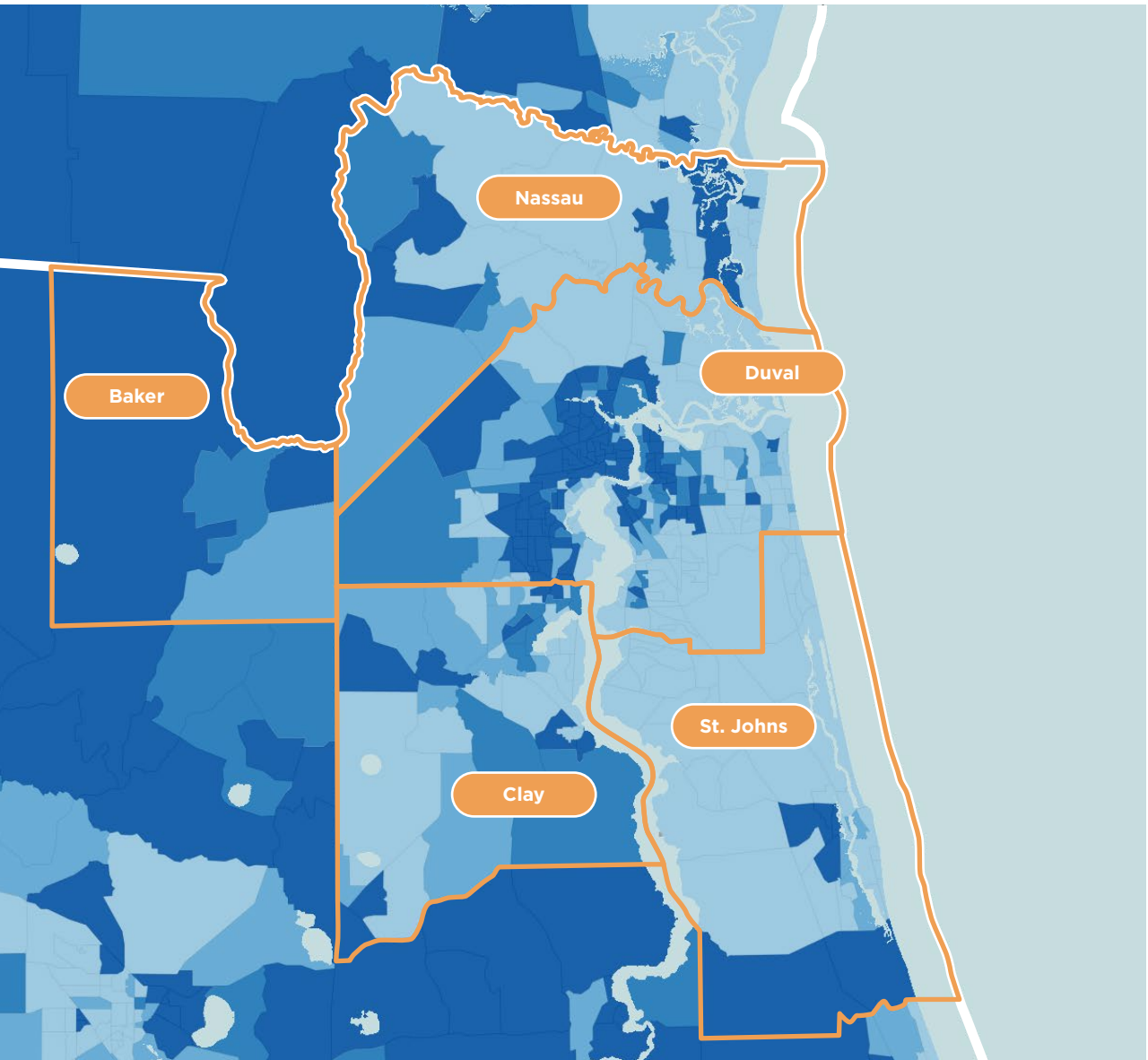


Report Area	Total Population (For Whom Insurance Status is Determined)	Population with Any Health Insurance	Population Receiving Medicaid	Percent of Insured Population Receiving Medicaid
Northeast Florida	1,579,772	1,417,214	257,555	18.17%
Baker County, FL	24,868	22,063	5,285	23.95%
Clay County, FL	215,982	197,099	31,590	16.03%
Duval County, FL	971,845	857,940	183,672	21.41%
Nassau County, FL	90,308	83,169	13,730	16.51%
St. Johns County, FL	276,769	256,943	23,278	9.06%
Florida	21,300,363	18,679,638	3,727,882	19.96%
United States	326,147,510	297,832,418	66,532,218	22.34%

Note: This indicator is compared to the state average.
Data Source: US Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 2018-22

Insured, Medicaid / Means-Tested Coverage

Percent by Census Tract, ACS 2018-22



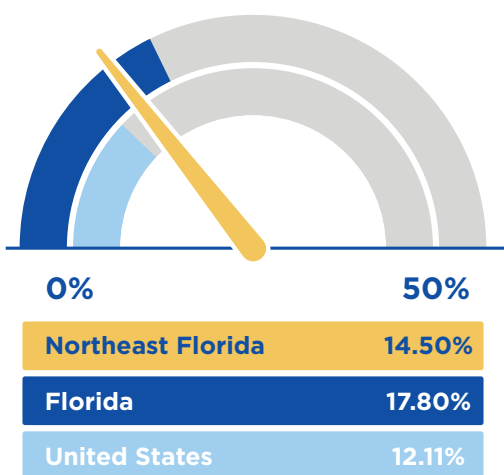
INSURANCE

Uninsured Adults

The lack of health insurance is considered a key driver of health status.

This indicator reports the percentage of adults age 18 to 64 without health insurance coverage. This indicator is relevant because lack of insurance is a primary barrier to health care access including regular primary care, specialty care, and other health services.

Percent of Population Age 18-64 Without Medical Insurance



Report Area	Total Population Age 18-64	Population Age 18-64 w/ Insurance	Population Age 18-64 w/ Insurance (%)	Population Age 18-64 w/o Insurance	Population Age 18-64 w/o Insurance (%)
Northeast Florida	979,393	837,421	85.50%	141,972	14.50%
Baker County, FL	15,388	13,017	84.59%	2,371	15.41%
Clay County, FL	134,427	116,838	86.92%	17,589	13.08%
Duval County, FL	606,633	510,260	84.11%	96,373	15.89%
Nassau County, FL	54,002	47,195	87.39%	6,807	12.61%
St. Johns County, FL	168,943	150,111	88.85%	18,832	11.15%
Florida	12,583,091	10,343,074	82.20%	2,240,017	17.80%
United States	197,133,424	173,254,919	87.89%	23,878,505	12.11%

Note: This indicator is compared to the state average.
Data Source: US Census Bureau, Small Area Health Insurance Estimates, 2021

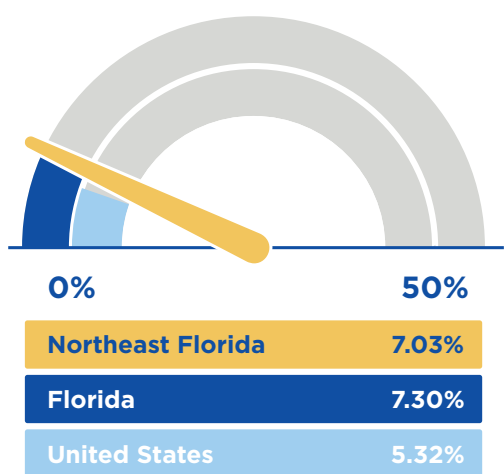
INSURANCE

Uninsured Children

The lack of health insurance is considered a key driver of health status.

This indicator reports the percentage of children under age 19 without health insurance coverage. This indicator is relevant because lack of insurance is a primary barrier to health care access including regular primary care, specialty care, and other health services.

Percent of Population Under Age 0-18 Without Medical Insurance



Report Area	Total Population Age 0-18	Population Age 0-18 w/ Insurance	Population Age 0-18 w/ Insurance (%)	Population Age 0-18 w/o Insurance	Population Age 0-18 w/o Insurance (%)
Northeast Florida	377,034	350,535	92.97%	26,499	7.03%
Baker County, FL	7,056	6,510	92.26%	546	7.74%
Clay County, FL	53,858	50,437	93.65%	3,421	6.35%
Duval County, FL	229,133	212,116	92.57%	17,017	7.43%
Nassau County, FL	19,503	18,074	92.67%	1,429	7.33%
St. Johns County, FL	67,484	63,398	93.95%	4,086	6.05%
Florida	4,420,732	4,098,168	92.70%	322,564	7.30%
United States	75,979,898	71,938,607	94.68%	4,041,291	5.32%

Note: This indicator is compared to the state average.
Data Source: US Census Bureau, Small Area Health Insurance Estimates, 2021

INSURANCE

Uninsured Population by Gender

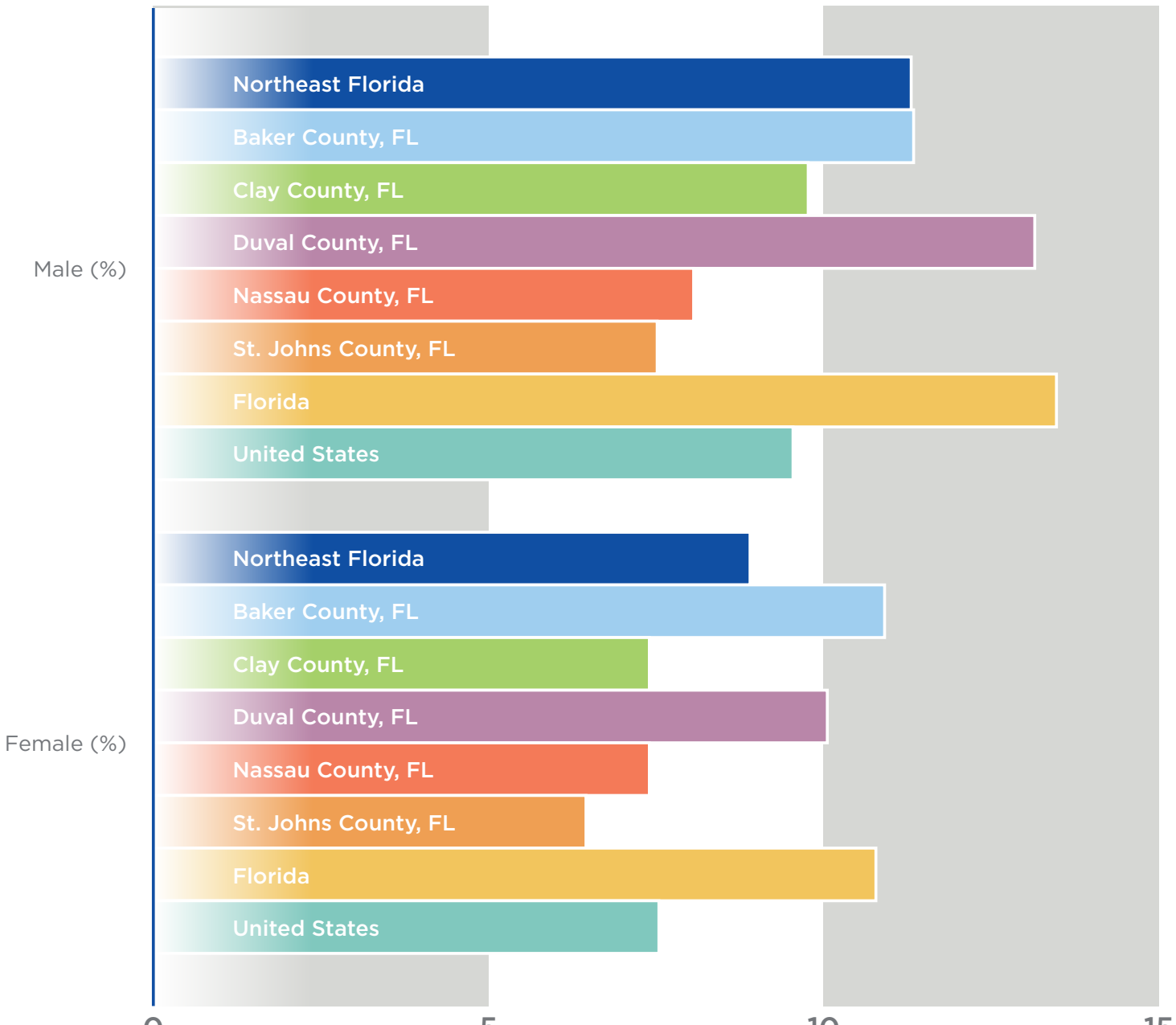
This indicator reports the uninsured population by gender.

The percentage values could be interpreted as, for example, “Of all the male population within the report area, the proportion without health insurance coverage is (value).”

Report Area	Male	Female	Male (%)	Female (%)
Northeast Florida	88,325	74,233	11.53%	9.12%
Baker County, FL	1,421	1,384	11.52%	11.04%
Clay County, FL	10,546	8,337	9.95%	7.58%
Duval County, FL	62,260	51,645	13.32%	10.24%
Nassau County, FL	3,674	3,465	8.28%	7.55%
St. Johns County, FL	10,424	9,402	7.68%	6.66%
Florida	1,424,476	1,196,249	13.69%	10.98%
United States	15,616,252	12,698,840	9.72%	7.67%

Data Source: US Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 2018-22.

Uninsured Population by Gender

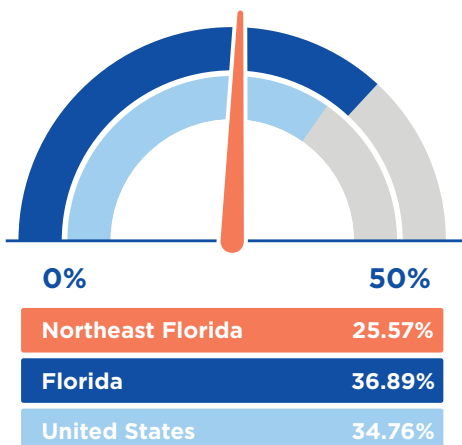


TRANSPORTATION

Distance to Public Transport

This indicator measures the proportion of the population living within 0.5 miles of a GTFS or fixed-guideway transit stop. Transit data is available from over 200 transit agencies across the United States, as well as all existing fixed-guideway transit services in the U.S. This includes rail, streetcars, ferries, trolleys, and some bus rapid transit systems.

Percentage of Population within Half Mile of Public Transit



Report Area	Total Population	Population Within 0.5 Miles of Public Transit	Percentage of Population within Half Mile of Public Transit
Northeast Florida	1,475,386	377,322	25.57%
Baker County, FL	27,785	0	0%
Clay County, FL	207,291	4,508	2.17%
Duval County, FL	924,229	359,937	38.94%
Nassau County, FL	80,578	0	0%
St. Johns County, FL	235,503	12,877	5.47%
Florida	20,598,139	7,598,336	36.89%
United States	322,903,030	112,239,342	34.76%

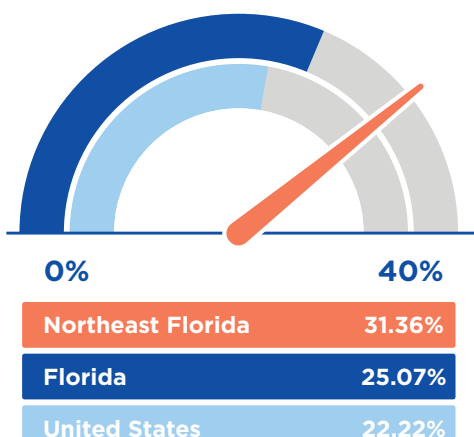
Note: This indicator is compared to the state average.
Data Source: US Census Bureau, Small Area Health Insurance Estimates, 2021

FOOD ENVIRONMENT

Low Food Access

This indicator reports the percentage of the population with low food access. Low food access is defined as living more than 1 mile (urban) or 10 miles (rural) from the nearest supermarket, supercenter, or large grocery store. Data are from the 2019 Food Access Research Atlas dataset. This indicator is relevant because it highlights populations and geographies facing food insecurity.

Percent of Population with Low Food Access



Report Area	Total Population (2010)	Population with Low Food Access	Percent Population with Low Food Access
Northeast Florida	1,345,596	421,957	31.36%
Baker County, FL	27,115	15,066	55.56%
Clay County, FL	190,865	66,319	34.75%
Duval County, FL	864,263	253,891	29.38%
Nassau County, FL	73,314	32,237	43.97%
St. Johns County, FL	190,039	54,444	28.65%
Florida	18,801,310	4,712,762	25.07%
United States	308,745,538	68,611,398	22.22%

Note: This indicator is compared to the state average.
Data Source: US Department of Agriculture, Economic Research Service, USDA – Food Access Research Atlas, 2019



PRIORITY 2

Housing

Housing Cost Burden and Homelessness

Housing Cost Burden

Housing was identified in all but one of the Key Stakeholder Interviews and Group Listening Sessions. It was typically brought up multiple times in each, with the cost of housing and the associated cost burden of it being identified the most frequently. Although the 31 secondary measures associated with housing did not overall perform poorly at the regional (five-county rolled-up) level when compared to Florida or the U.S., many measures did perform poorly at the county level. For example, the median household income (a factor that contributes to housing cost burden) in Duval County and in Baker County is less than the state and the U.S. When viewed from a race and ethnicity perspective, the lowest median household income is among black householders in Duval County, at \$47,536, which is not only below the overall Florida and U.S. income levels, but is also below the median income levels of black householders in Florida and the U.S. Most of the households making up the lower half of the median income level are located in the Jacksonville urban core.

Recognizing the increase in housing costs and citing the inability for many people to live close to their work (for example, (Amelia Island in Nassau County and Ponte Vedra in St. Johns County), many people also spoke of the working poor or ALICE (Asset Limited, Income Constrained, Employed) in relation to the level of housing cost burden. The recency of this effect is well known despite the data lag. News such as *“Florida leads nation in number of cost-burdened renters”* and *“As of late May 2024, the median Florida home price (which includes single family homes and townhomes/condos) is \$399,944 which is 11.3% above the national average home price of \$359,240”* supports this felt need. With 2022 data showing nearly 200,000 people cost burdened at the 30% level and 85,000 cost burdened at the 50% level, the burden of the cost of housing remains a core concern in Northeast Florida – especially when coupled with the fact that the HUD-assisted housing units in Northeast Florida (311 per 10,000 housing units) are significantly less than the U.S average (414 per 10,000).

311/10,000
HUD-assisted housing units
**NORTHEAST
FLORIDA**



414/10,000
HUD-assisted housing units
UNITED STATES

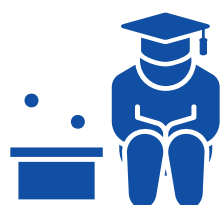


Homelessness

A growing sense of an increase in homelessness also emerged from the interviews and conversations. This is because, in part, it is known that the increase in the housing cost burden will cascade to an increase in homelessness. The sense of an increase is also believed because of the increase in service requests and the increase in visibility of people who are unhoused. The secondary data from the 2023 HUD annual Homeless Assessment Report does not reflect this increase, which draws from the Point-In Time count and the Housing Inventory Count conducted in January 2023, nearly 18 months from the date of this writing.

Vulnerable Populations and Housing

Similar to the overall homelessness data, homelessness among veterans and children do not reflect an increase in the 2023 data. Of significance though is that the most recent available data on homeless students provides that 5,443 or 2.37% of the 229,900 students enrolled in reported districts during the 2019-2020 school year were homeless. Because this data is limited to students enrolled in the public school system, it does not necessarily include students not enrolled in any school or students enrolled in private school. Therefore, the number of school-aged children who are homeless would be greater than the 5,443 students reflected in this data.



5,443+
Homeless Students
Northeast Florida

Data Source: See page 65

Primary Data Source Comments

“Most people in our field would say that you know housing is health care.”

“I know there is significant homelessness and housing issues across all age populations, but even for children too.”

“I don’t know how to quantify it, but the newly homeless is something I’m seeing now.”

“One of the most pressing issues is just, is housing. Availability of affordable housing and making sure that there are ways for people to afford housing that works for them and their families.”

“Kind of tent areas kind of popping up in our communities from the homeless population. There’s just nowhere for people to live. There’s just no affordable housing.”

“So I would definitely say that housing is a problem. Housing costs here are high and seem to only be going up. It’s hard for anyone to live here that doesn’t make good money.”

“There’s hardly any affordable housing in Clay County where we’ve had such a spike in rents.”

“People can’t even afford affordable housing, because it’s taking more than 30% of their income is spent on housing.”

“I think the housing burden continuing to just like the food I don’t know how people get out of those cycles.”

“I mean, housing is just impossible here. The rate and the cost. I feel like just even anecdotally, I’m seeing more.”



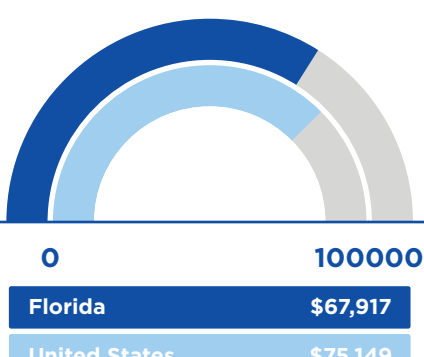
Secondary Data Summary

INCOME

Median Household Income

This indicator is based on the latest 5-year American Community Survey estimates. This includes the income of the householder and all other individuals 15 years old and over in the household, whether they are related to the householder or not. Because many households consist of only one person, average household income is usually less than average family income.

Median Household Income

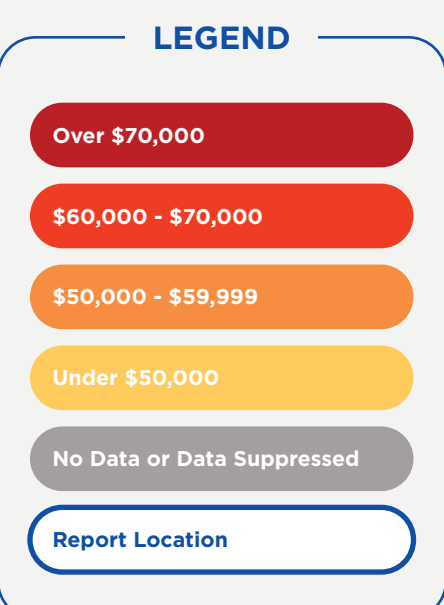
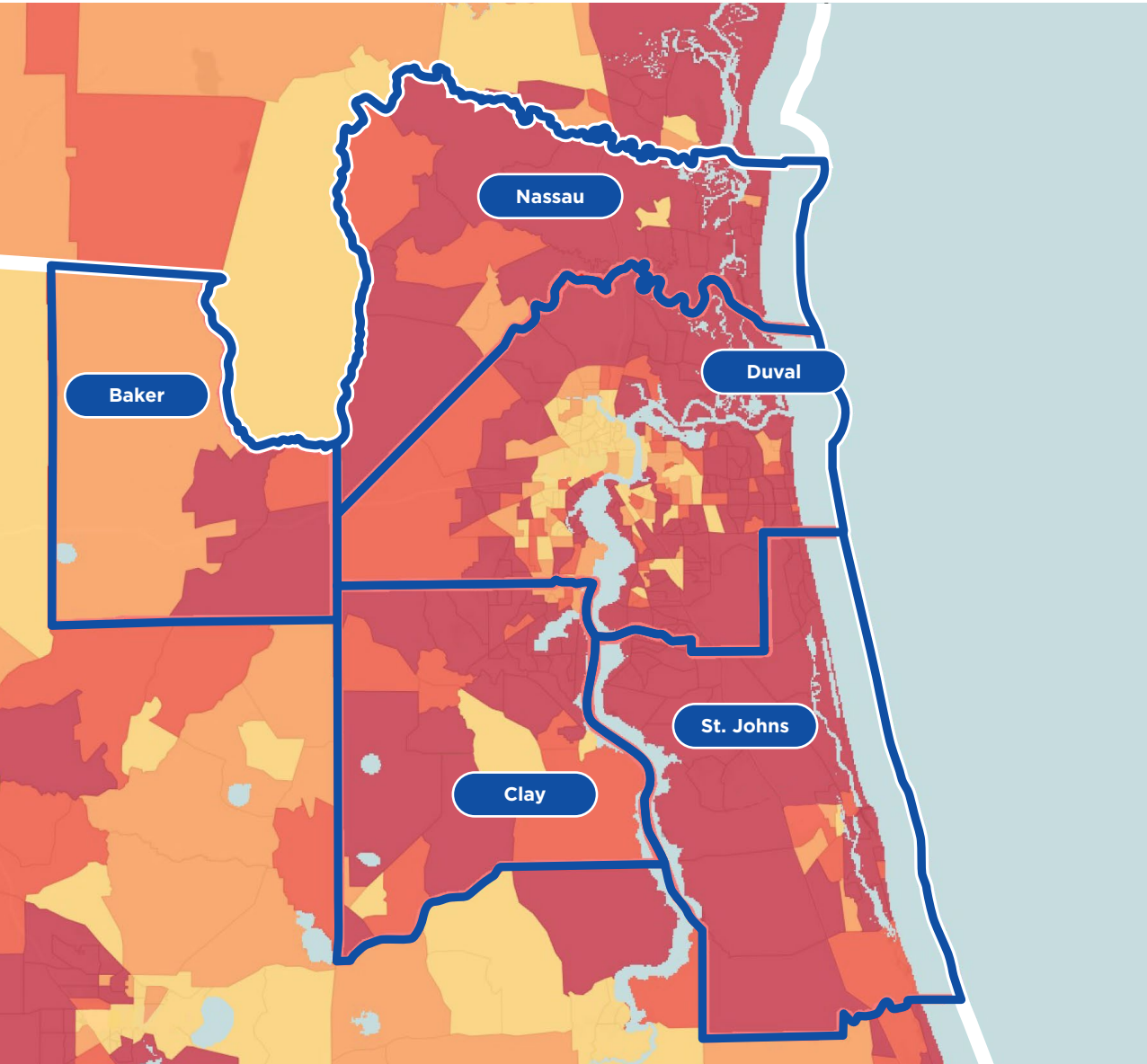


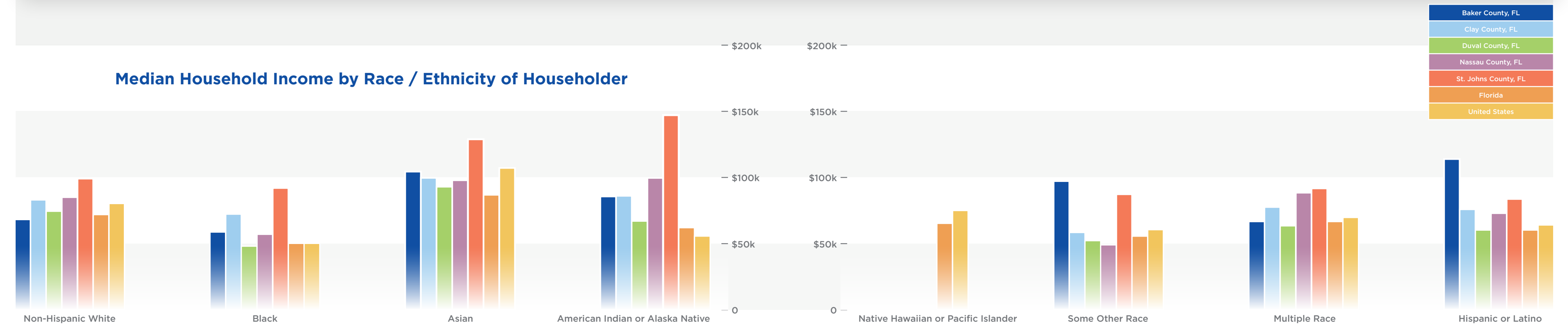
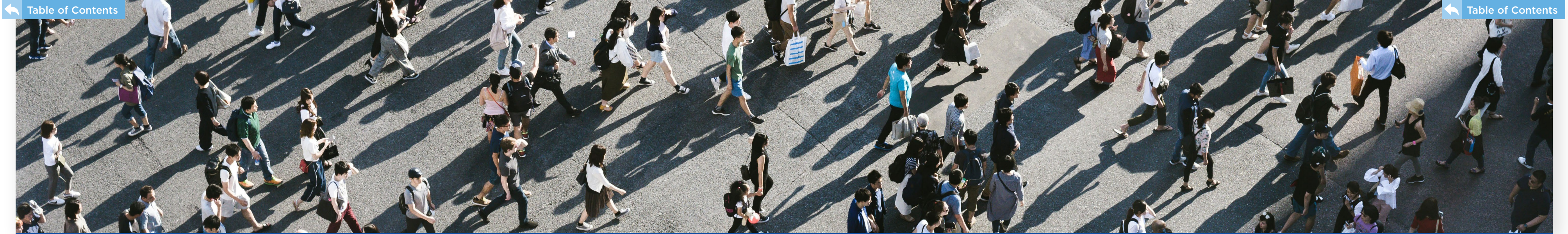
Report Area	Total Households	Average Household Income	Median Household Income
Northeast Florida	632,232	\$100,577	No data
Baker County, FL	9,004	\$86,352.32	\$67,872
Clay County, FL	79,704	\$100,854.65	\$82,242
Duval County, FL	396,132	\$90,665.64	\$65,579
Nassau County, FL	36,336	\$109,291.34	\$84,085
St. Johns County, FL	102,056	\$136,985.68	\$100,020
Florida	8,353,441	\$96,992.32	\$67,917
United States	125,736,353	\$105,833.04	\$75,149

Note: This indicator is compared to the state average.
Data Source: US Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 2018-22

Median Household Income

by Census Tract, ACS 2018-22



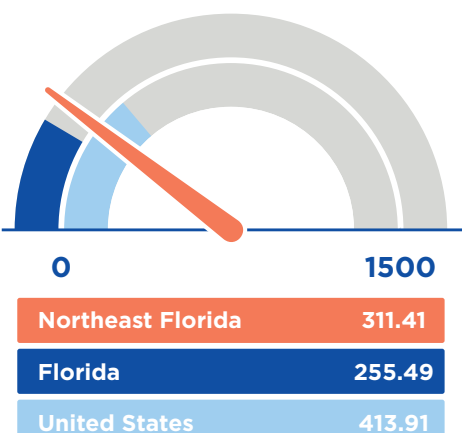


AFFORDABLE HOUSING

Assisted Housing Units

This indicator reports the total number of HUD-funded assisted housing units available to eligible renters as well as the unit rate (per 10,000 total households).

HUD-Assisted Units, Rate per 10,000 Housing Units



Report Area	Total Housing Units (2022)	Total HUD-Assisted Housing Units	HUD-Assisted Units, Rate per 10,000 Housing Units
Northeast Florida	578,620	18,019	311.41
Baker County, FL	8,828	331	374.94
Clay County, FL	75,360	351	46.58
Duval County, FL	369,704	16,816	454.85
Nassau County, FL	33,475	168	50.19
St. Johns County, FL	91,253	353	38.68
Florida	7,931,313	202,640	255.49
United States	123,559,968	5,114,316	413.91

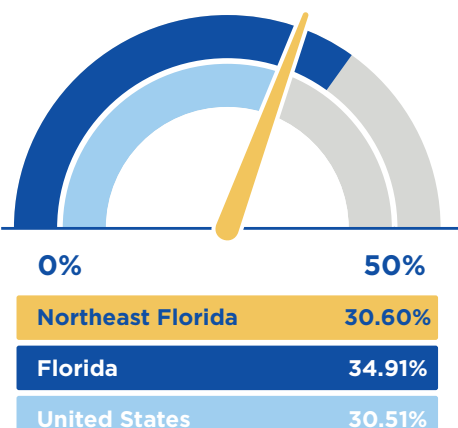
Note: This indicator is compared to the state average.
Data Source: US Department of Housing and Urban Development, 2017-21

HOUSING COSTS

Cost Burden (30%)

This indicator reports the percentage of the households where housing costs are 30% or more of total household income. This indicator provides information on the cost of monthly housing expenses for owners and renters. The information offers a measure of housing affordability and excessive shelter costs. The data also serve to aid in the development of housing programs to meet the needs of people at different economic levels. Of the 623,232 total households in Northeast Florida, 190,693 or 30.60% of the population live in cost burdened households.

Percentage of Households where Housing Costs Exceed 30% of Income



Report Area	Total Households	Cost-Burdened Households	Cost-Burdened Households, Percent
Northeast Florida	623,232	190,693	30.60%
Baker County, FL	9,004	1,993	22.13%
Clay County, FL	79,704	18,691	23.45%
Duval County, FL	396,132	134,400	33.93%
Nassau County, FL	36,336	8,734	24.04%
St. Johns County, FL	102,056	26,875	26.33%
Florida	8,353,441	2,915,774	34.91%
United States	125,736,353	38,363,931	30.51%

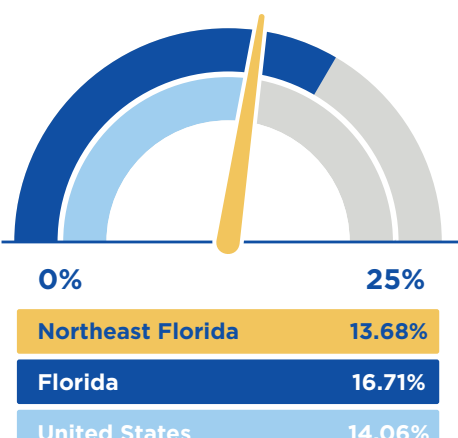
Note: This indicator is compared to the state average.
Data Source: US Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 2018-22

HOUSING COSTS

Cost Burden, Severe (50%)

This indicator reports the percentage of the households where housing costs are 50% or more of total household income. This indicator provides information on the cost of monthly housing expenses for owners and renters. The information offers a measure of housing affordability and excessive shelter costs. The data also serve to aid in the development of housing programs to meet the needs of people at different economic levels.

Percentage of Households where Housing Costs Exceed 50% of Income



Report Area	Total Households	Severely Burdened Household	Severely Burdened Households (%)
Northeast Florida	632,232	85,231	13.68%
Baker County, FL	9,004	920	10.22%
Clay County, FL	79,704	7,911	9.93%
Duval County, FL	396,132	61,019	15.40%
Nassau County, FL	36,336	3,896	10.72%
St. Johns County, FL	102,056	11,485	11.25%
Florida	8,353,441	1,395,758	16.71%
United States	125,736,353	17,679,129	14.06%

Note: This indicator is compared to the state average.
Data Source: US Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 2018-22

HOMELESSNESS

Homeless Population

This indicator reports the total homeless population as estimated from the Point-in-Time (PIT) count in 2023. Data is obtained from HUD’s Annual Homeless Assessment Report (AHAR).

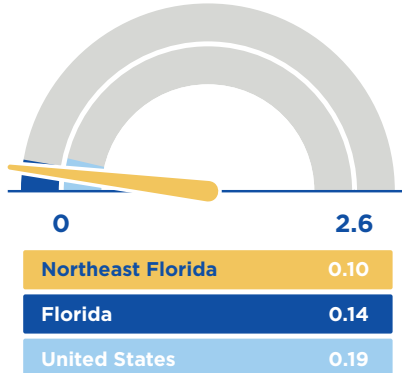
As of 2023, the homeless population is 1,682 in total or 0.10 per 100 total population within Northeast Florida. This rate is lower than the state’s reported homeless rate of 0.14 per 100 population.

Note: This data is reported by Continuum of Care (CoC) region. CoCs are an administrative geographic unit used by HUD to fund and administer services. CoCs may cover one or more counties.

Report Area CoC Name	Total Population 2020	Overall Homeless 2023	Homeless Rate per 100 Population
Northeast Florida	1,577,377	1,682	0.10
Jacksonville - Duval, Clay, Nassau Counties CoC	1,304,164	1,247	0.10
St. Johns County CoC	273,213	435	0.16
Florida	21,538,187	30,756	0.14
United States	334,735,155	651,777	0.19

Note: This indicator is compared to the state average.
Data Source: U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, HUD Annual Homeless Assessment Report (AHAR). 2023.

Homeless Rate per 100 Population 2023



Population Change 2020-2023: Overall Homeless

Report Area	Overall Homeless 2020	Overall Homeless 2023	Difference	% Difference
Northeast Florida	1,733	1,682	-51	-2.9%
Clay, Duval and Nassau County, FL	1,366	1,247	-119	-8.7%
St. Johns County, FL	367	435	68	18.5%
Florida	27,487	30,756	3,269	11.9%
United States	1,160,932	1,306,208	145,276	12.5%

Data Source: U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, HUD Annual Homeless Assessment Report (AHAR). 2023.

Population Change 2020-2023: Overall Homeless Veterans

Report Area	Overall Homeless Veterans 2020	Overall Homeless Veterans 2023	Difference	% Difference
Northeast Florida	203	112	-91	-44.8%
Clay, Duval and Nassau County, FL	177	84	-93	-52.5%
St. Johns County, FL	26	28	2	7.7%
Florida	2,436	2,558	122	5.0%
United States	74,504	71,148	-3,356	-4.5%

Data Source: U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, HUD Annual Homeless Assessment Report (AHAR). 2023.

HOMELESSNESS

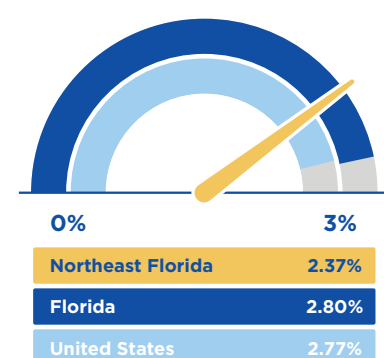
Homeless Children & Youth

This indicator reports the number of homeless children and youth enrolled in the public school system during the 2019-2020 school year.. According to the data source definitions, homelessness is defined as lacking a fixed, regular, and adequate nighttime residence. Those who are homeless may be sharing the housing of other persons, living in motels, hotels or camping grounds, in emergency transitional shelters, or may be unsheltered. Data are aggregated to the report-area level based on school-district summaries where three or more homeless children are counted.

In Northeast Florida, of all the 229,900 students enrolled in reported districts during the 2019-2020 school year, there were 5,443 or 2.37% homeless students, which is lower than the statewide rate of 2.80%.

Note: Data availability for 100.00% schools.

Rate of Homelessness Among Public School Students (in Reported Districts)



Report Area	Students in Reported Districts	Homeless Students	Homeless Students (%)	Districts Reporting	Students in Reported Districts
Northeast Florida	229,900	5,443	2.37%	100.00%	100.00%
Baker County, FL	5,047	103	2.00%	100.00%	100.00%
Clay County, FL	38,698	817	2.10%	100.00%	100.00%
Duval County, FL	130,279	3,349	2.60%	100.00%	100.00%
Nassau County, FL	12,248	513	4.20%	100.00%	100.00%
St. Johns County, FL	43,628	661	1.50%	100.00%	100.00%
Florida	2,854,470	79,834	2.80%	97.37%	99.86%
United States	47,386,316	1,311,089	2.77%	86.95%	97.47%

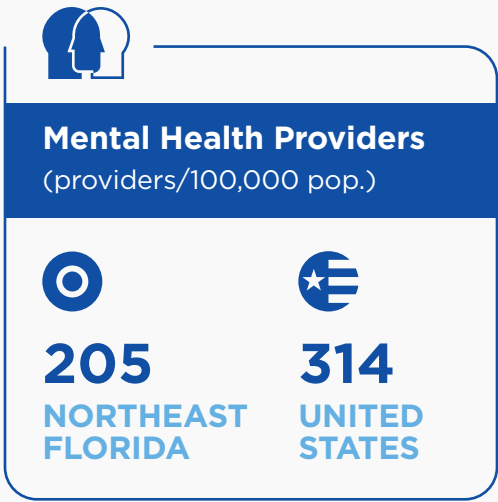
Note: This indicator is compared to the state average.
Data Source: U.S. Department of Education, EDFacts. Additional data analysis by CARES. 2019-2020.



PRIORITY 3

Mental Health

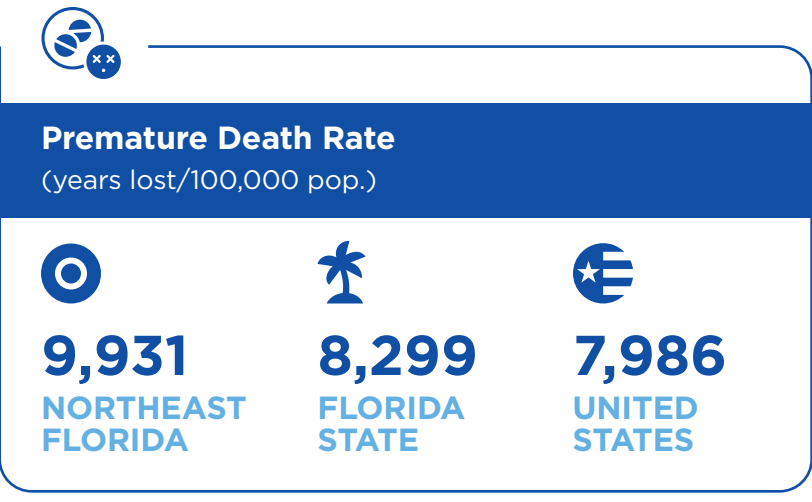
Access to Mental Health Care



Data Source: See page 70

Mental health in general was identified as problematic by 81% of the interviews we conducted. Access to mental health care was identified as the leading sub-category of this significant health need, with 51% of interviews commenting on it. The community conversations revealed more about experienced mental health conditions than access.

Of note is that 86% (19/22) of the mental health secondary measures performed worse than the U.S. Specifically, the availability of mental health providers in Northeast Florida is much lower than the U.S., with 205 providers per 100,000 compared to 314 (U.S.). Similarly, the availability of addiction and substance abuse providers is significantly lower, with 5.5 providers per 100,000 in Northeast Florida compared to 27 (U.S.). Although many people commented on the progress made in mental health care access and stigma reduction, such comments were quickly followed up with the ongoing need for mental health care.



Data Source: Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, CDC - National Vital Statistics System. Accessed via County Health Rankings. 2019-2021.

This ongoing need is evident when considered within the context that people in Northeast Florida are more likely to experience violent crime (assault, rape, robbery), and the resulting mental health risk factors of trauma, anxiety, and stress. This is predominantly a factor in Duval County, which has a violent crime rate per 100,000 population of 633.5, which compares poorly to the state (433.9) and to the U.S. (416).

Northeast Floridians also experience more deaths of despair, drug overdose mortalities, and opioid overdose mortalities than either the state or the U.S., contributing to the regional premature death rate of 9,931 years of potential life lost per 100,000 compared to the state (8,299 years) and the U.S. (7,986 years). Deaths of despair occur disproportionately among males, and among people who are Non-Hispanic White.

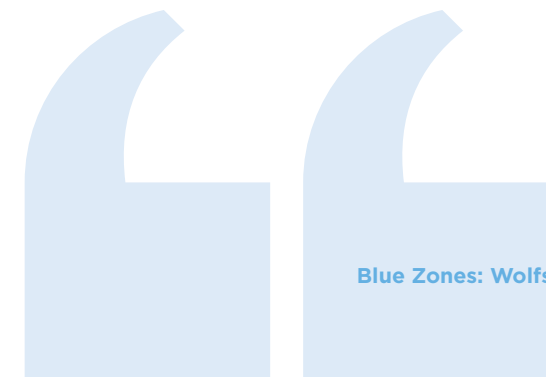
As it relates to children, comments reflected an increase in youth and children requiring mental health services. The data reflects this need. For example, the number of emergency visits from mental disorders for those aged 0-17 in Northeast Florida in 2022 was 1,264 and the number aged 12-18 who were hospitalized from non-fatal, self-harm injuries was 168.



Primary Data Source Comments

“So the need continues to grow, even though we’re making strides, making impacts, the need continues to outpace the capacity.”

“At some point there was a 13-year-old child that said to their parents, I’m sad. They said to their parents, I’m feeling a little anxious. Way before they would be diagnosed as anxiety, well before they would be diagnosed with depression, but there aren’t things, there’s not enough education as a parent, or even schools aren’t even allowed to say, what can we do for this child while it’s not an issue?”



“Mental health services have provider shortage, impacting access to care.”

“I think the thing is that we’re going to see a surge because as people accept it more and are more accepting of services.”

“I know things are being addressed. But there is a big need in that area. There is a huge need in mental health.”

“You know, these people aren’t mentally ill, but they have serious emotional wellness issues because of the stress of an aging person taking care of an aging person.”

“I would still say, I think mental health is a big issue. A lot of the patients that we serve here in our clinic, in our group, you know, have challenges with mental health, and you still have so many people that are undiagnosed.”

“I have to go with depression and anxiety and trauma. I, working with nonprofits and with kids, it’s really given me a fresh perspective on how prevalent that is in this community.”

“Under mental health, that isolation, which leads to some of those other issues that people are experiencing when they’re isolated, that anxiety, the depression, and then of course the despair.”

Secondary Data Summary

ACCESS TO CARE

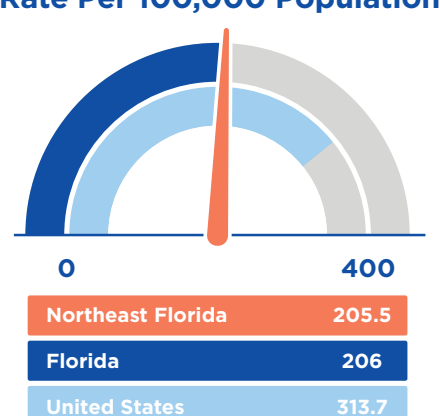
Mental Health

This indicator reports the number of mental health providers in the report area as a rate per 100,000 total area population. Mental health providers are defined as psychiatrists, psychologists, licensed clinical social workers, counselors, marriage and family therapists, and mental health providers that treat alcohol and other drug abuse, as well as advanced practice nurses specializing in mental health care. Data from the 2023 Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) National Provider Identifier (NPI) downloadable file are used in the 2024 County Health Rankings.

Within Northeast Florida there are 3,448 mental health providers with a CMS National Provider Identifier (NPI). This represents 205.5 providers per 100,000 total population.

Note: Data are suppressed for counties with population greater than 1,000 and 0 mental health providers.

Mental Health Care Provider Rate Per 100,000 Population



Report Area	Estimated Population	Number of Mental Health Providers	Ratio of Mental Health Providers to Population (1 Provider per x Persons)	Mental Health Care Provider Rate (Per 100,000 Population)
Northeast Florida	1,677,458	3,448	486.5	205.5
Baker County, FL	27,857	39	714.3	140
Clay County, FL	227,206	309	735.3	136
Duval County, FL	1,018,000	2,545	400	250
Nassau County, FL	97,826	135	724.6	138
St. Johns County, FL	306,569	420	729.9	137
Florida	22,217,476	45,768	485.4	206
United States	333,191,688	1,045,210	318.8	313.7

Data Source: US Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 2018-22.

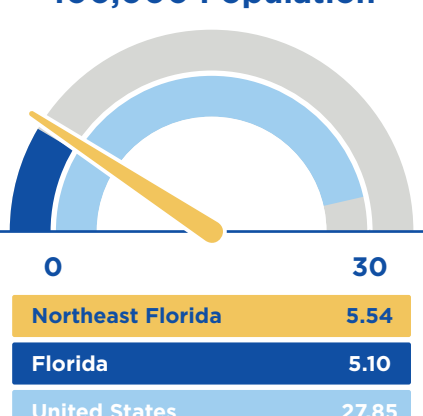
ACCESS TO CARE

Addiction/Substance Abuse Providers

This indicator reports the number of providers who specialize in addiction or substance abuse treatment, rehabilitation, addiction medicine, or providing methadone. The providers include Doctors of Medicine (MDs), Doctors of Osteopathic Medicine (DOs), and other credentialed professionals with Center for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) and a valid National Provider Identifier (NPI). The number of facilities that specialize in addiction and substance abuse treatment are also listed (but are not included in the calculated rate). Data are from the latest Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) National Plan and Provider Enumeration System (NPPES) Downloadable File.

Within Northeast Florida there are 89 providers who specialize in addiction or substance abuse. This represents 5.54 providers per 100,000 total population.

Addiction/Substance Abuse Providers, Rate per 100,000 Population



Report Area	Total Population (2020)	Number of Facilities	Number of Providers	Providers, Rate per 100,000 Population
Northeast Florida	1,605,848	36	89	5.54
Baker County, FL	28,259	0	0	0.00
Clay County, FL	218,245	5	4	1.83
Duval County, FL	995,567	24	76	7.63
Nassau County, FL	90,352	0	5	5.53
St. Johns County, FL	273,425	7	4	1.46
Florida	21,538,187	1,413	1,098	5.10
United States	334,735,155	18,293	93,221	27.85

Note: This indicator is compared to the state average. Data Source: Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services, CMS – National Plan and Provider Enumeration System (NPPES). May 2024

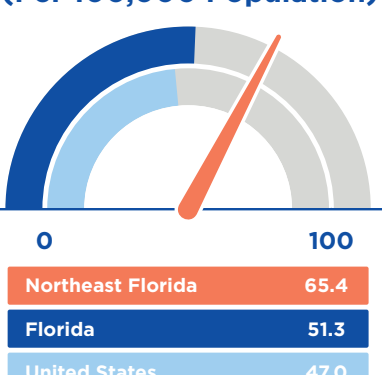
Death of Despair (Suicide + Drug/Alcohol Poisoning)

This indicator reports the average rate of death due to intentional self-harm (suicide), alcohol-related disease, and drug overdose, also known as “deaths of despair,” per 100,000 population. Figures are reported as crude rates and as rates age-adjusted to year 2000 standard. Rates are resummarized for report areas from county level data, only where data is available. This indicator is relevant because death of despair is an indicator of poor mental health.

Within Northeast Florida, there were 5,204 deaths of despair. This represents an age-adjusted death rate of 65.4 per every 100,000 total population.

Note: Data are suppressed for counties with fewer than 20 deaths in the time frame.

Deaths of Despair, Age-Adjusted Death Rate (Per 100,000 Population)

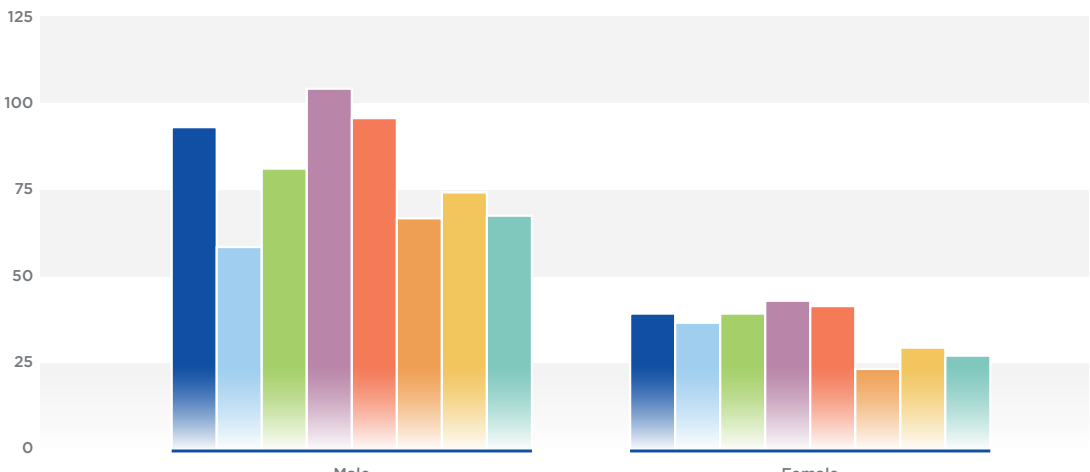


Report Area	Total Population, 2016-2020 Average	Five Year Total Deaths, 2016-2020 Total	Crude Death Rate (Per 100,000 Population)	Age-Adjusted Death Rate (Per 100,000 Population)
Northeast Florida	1,533,060	5,204	67.9	65.4
Baker County, FL	28,670	71	49.5	49.1
Clay County, FL	215,527	656	60.9	59.8
Duval County, FL	947,771	3,564	75.2	72.5
Nassau County, FL	85,783	293	68.3	68.8
St. Johns County, FL	255,309	620	48.6	44.4
Florida	21,221,443	58,785	55.4	51.3
United States	326,747,554	806,246	49.4	47.0

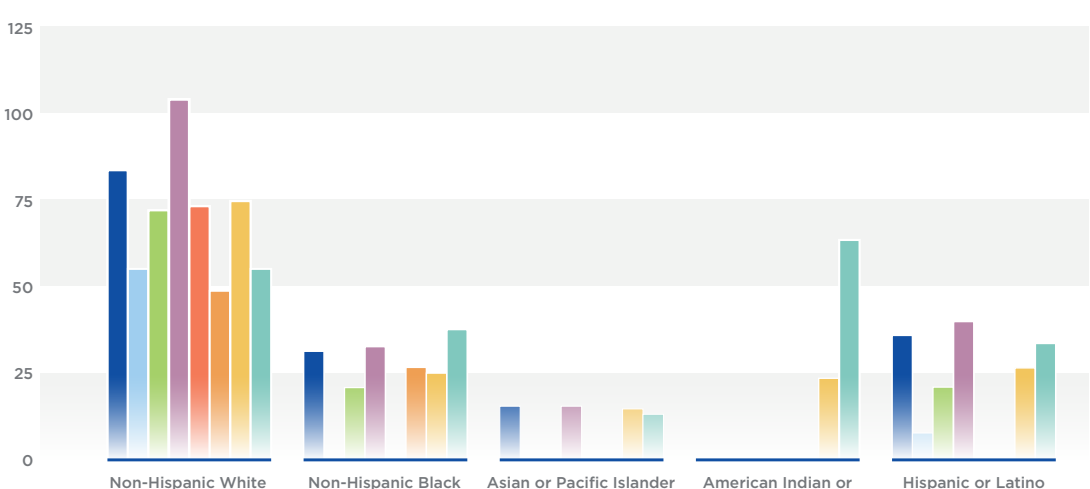
Note: This indicator is compared to the state average.
Data Source: Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, CDC – National Vital Statistics System, Accessed via CDC WONDER, 2016-2020

Northeast Florida
Baker County, FL
Clay County, FL
Duval County, FL
Nassau County, FL
St. Johns County, FL
Florida
United States

Deaths of Despair, Age-Adjusted Rate by Gender (Per 100,000 Pop.)



Deaths of Despair, Age-Adjusted Rate by Race / Ethnicity (Per 100,000 Pop.)



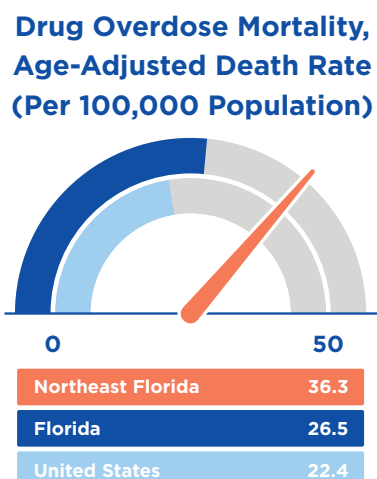
MORTALITY

Drug Overdose
(All Substances)

This indicator reports the 2016-2020 five-year average rate of death due to drug overdose of all substances per 100,000 population. Figures are reported as crude rates and as rates age-adjusted to year 2000 standard. Rates are resummarized for report areas from county level data, only where data is available. This indicator is relevant because drug overdose is the leading cause of injury deaths in the United States, and they have increased dramatically in recent years.

Within Northeast Florida, there are a total of 2,726 deaths due to drug overdose for all substances. This represents an age-adjusted death rate of 36.3 per every 100,000 total population.

Note: Data are suppressed for counties with fewer than 20 deaths in the time frame.



Report Area	Total Population, 2016-2020 Average	Five Year Total Deaths, 2016-2020 Total	Crude Death Rate (Per 100,000 Population)	Age-Adjusted Death Rate (Per 100,000 Population)
Northeast Florida	1,533,060	2,726	35.6	36.3
Baker County, FL	28,670	27	18.8	20.2
Clay County, FL	215,527	322	29.9	32.0
Duval County, FL	947,771	2,060	43.5	43.3
Nassau County, FL	85,783	122	28.4	33.5
St. Johns County, FL	255,309	195	15.3	16.7
Florida	21,221,443	27,013	25.5	26.5
United States	326,747,554	363,665	22.3	22.4

Note: This indicator is compared to the state average.
Data Source: Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, CDC – National Vital Statistics System, Accessed via CDC WONDER, 2016-2020

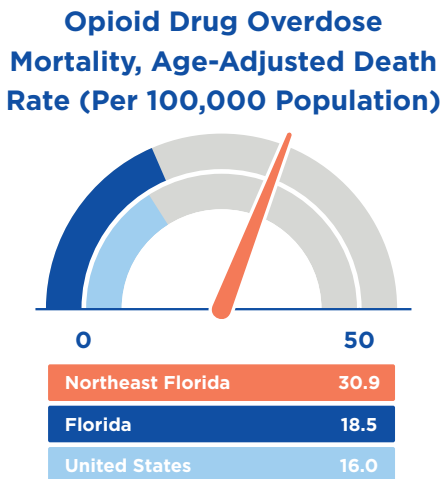
MORTALITY

Opioid Overdose

This indicator reports the 2016-2020 five-year average rate of death due to opioid drug overdose per 100,000 population. Figures are reported as crude rates and as rates age-adjusted to year 2000 standard. Rates are resummarized for report areas from county level data, only where data is available. This indicator is relevant because opioid drug overdose is the leading cause of injury deaths in the United States, and they have increased dramatically in recent years.

Within Northeast Florida, there are a total of 2,285 deaths due to opioid overdose. This represents an age-adjusted death rate of 30.9 per every 100,000 total population.

Note: Data are suppressed for counties with fewer than 20 deaths in the time frame.



Report Area	Total Population, 2016-2020 Average	Five Year Total Deaths, 2016-2020 Total	Crude Death Rate (Per 100,000 Population)	Age-Adjusted Death Rate (Per 100,000 Population)
Northeast Florida	1,533,060	2,285	29.8	30.9
Baker County, FL	28,670	17	No Data	No Data
Clay County, FL	215,527	275	25.5	27.7
Duval County, FL	947,771	1,738	36.7	36.6
Nassau County, FL	85,783	101	23.6	28.1
St. Johns County, FL	255,309	154	12.1	13.4
Florida	21,221,443	18,505	17.4	18.5
United States	326,747,554	256,428	15.7	16.0

Note: This indicator is compared to the state average.
Data Source: Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, CDC – National Vital Statistics System, Accessed via CDC WONDER, 2016-2020

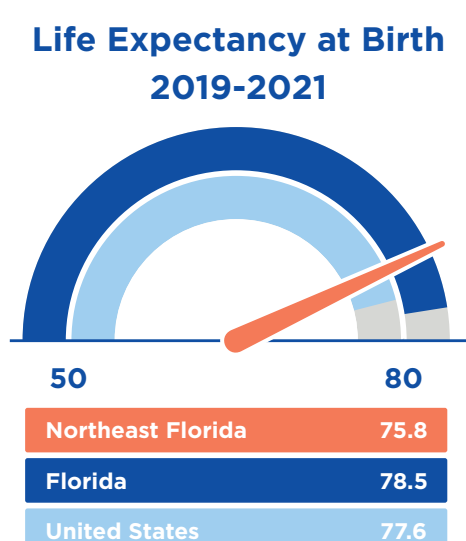
MORTALITY

Life Expectancy

This indicator reports the average life expectancy at birth (age-adjusted to 2000 standard). Data were from the National Center for Health Statistics - Mortality Files (2019-2021) and were used for the 2024 County Health Rankings.

Of the total 1,494,242 population in Northeast Florida, the average life expectancy during the 2019-21 three-year period is 75.8, which is lower than the statewide rate of 78.5.

Note: Data are suppressed for counties with fewer than 5,000 population-years-at-risk in the time frame.



Report Area	Total Population	Life Expectancy at Birth (2019-21)
Northeast Florida	1,494,242	75.8
Baker County, FL	27,482	74.4
Clay County, FL	207,568	75.7
Duval County, FL	919,830	74.3
Nassau County, FL	83,314	76.9
St. Johns County, FL	256,047	81.1
Florida	19,618,187	78.5
United States	307,250,254	77.6

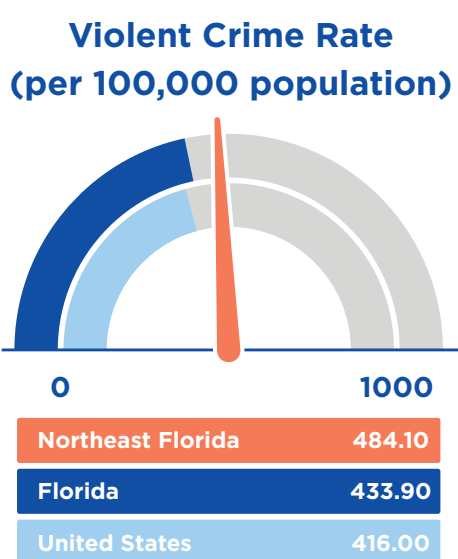
Note: This indicator is compared to the state average.
Data Source: University of Wisconsin Population Health Institute, County Health Rankings. 2019-2021

VIOLENT CRIME

Total

Violent crime includes homicide, rape, robbery, and aggravated assault.

Within Northeast Florida, the 2015-2017 three year total of reported violent crimes was 21,629, which equates to an annual rate of 484.10 crimes per 100,000 people, higher than the statewide rate of 433.90.



Report Area	Total Population	Violent Crimes, 3-year Total	Violent Crimes, Annual Rate (per 100,000 Population)
Northeast Florida	1,489,156	21,629	484.10
Baker County, FL	34,159	397	387.30
Clay County, FL	208,736	1,739	277.70
Duval County, FL	926,305	17,605	633.50
Nassau County, FL	84,226	556	220.00
St. Johns County, FL	235,729	1,332	188.30
Florida	20,754,584	270,212	433.90
United States	366,886,849	4,579,031	416.00

Note: This indicator is compared to the state average.
Data Source: Federal Bureau of Investigation, FBI Uniform Crime Reports, Additional analysis by the National Archive of Criminal Justice Data. Accessed via the Inter-university Consortium for Political and Social Research, 2015-2017.

	Baker County	Clay County	Duval County	Nassau County	St. Johns County	Florida
Age 12-18, death by suicide (per 100,000 Population)	0	4.6	9.1	13.3	3.6	5.9
Age 1-15, receiving mental health treatment (per 1,000 Population)	0	0.5	0	4.1	0	1.7
Age 0-17, Child Substance Abuse Program Enrollees (Number of Enrollees)	4	64	289	17	13	
Age 0-17, Emergency Department Visits from Mental Disorders (per 100,000 Population)	278.1	576.9	281	313.3	347.9	365.8
Age 0-17, Emergency Department Visits from Mental Disorders (Number of Visits)	19	298	664	59	224	
Age 12-18, Hospitalizations from Non-Fatal Self-Harm Injuries (per 100,000 Population)	75.2	166.6	103.5	106.3	126.5	71
Age 12-18, Hospitalizations from Non-Fatal Self-Harm Injuries (Number of Hospitalizations)	N/A	34	91	8	35	

Data Source: FLHealthCharts 2022 Data





PRIORITY 4

Food Environment

Access to Healthy Food and Food Insecurity

Although Food Environment ranked fourth among the significant health needs, it was identified as problematic in 81% of the interviews we conducted, as well as in 40% of the community conversations.

Access to Healthy Food and Food Insecurity

This primary data revealed the drivers of this ranking were healthy food access and food insecurity. Interestingly, many people that we talked with at the Sulzbacher Center did not identify themselves as food insecure, citing instead that they receive all their meals at Sulzbacher. The secondary data corroborated the primary data findings, including that 12.22% of households receive SNAP benefits (U.S. rate is 11.5%), 31% of the population have low food access (U.S. rate is 22%), and the grocery store rate is 15.63 per 100,000 population (U.S. rate is 23.38). In terms of numbers of people, this means that over 76,000 people receive SNAP benefits and that over 400,000 people have low food access.

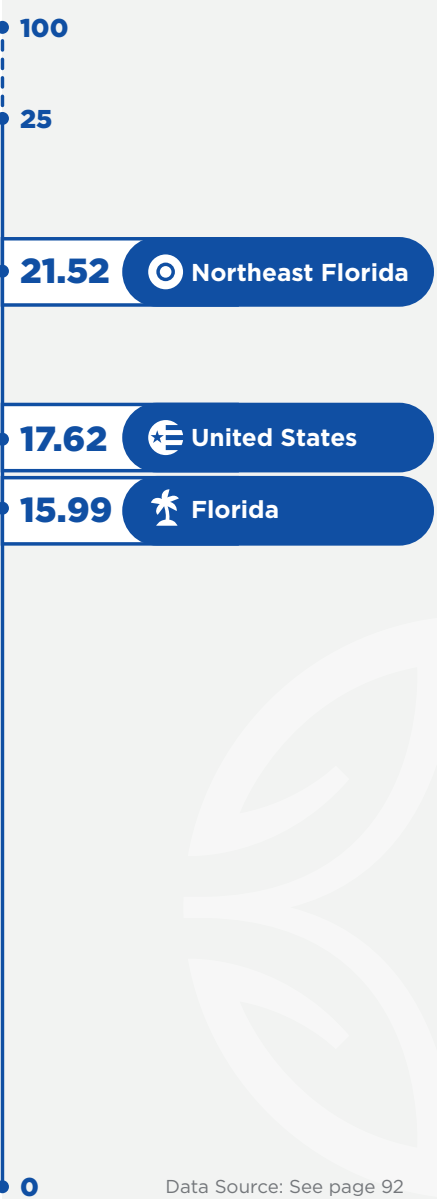
In addition, approximately 125,000 people who have low incomes also have low food access, which has a compounding effect on healthy eating and disease burden. For example, the most recent aggregated data for Medicare beneficiaries in Northeast Florida shows that diabetes prevalence, heart disease prevalence, and high blood pressure are all higher than the state, U.S., or both.

As it relates to children in Northeast Florida, 48,960 people under age 18 or 13.72% of the under 18 population are food insecure (U.S. rate is 13.3%). Compounding this is the fact that of those 48,960 food insecure children, nearly 30% of them are ineligible for SNAP assistance, which is worse than both Florida (28.79%) and the U.S. (26.63%).

Food Disparities

The problematic nature of the food environment is inequitable. Overall, the healthy food disparity index score of 21.52 (0 = perfect equality and 100 = perfect disparity) is higher than both the state (15.99) and the U.S. (17.62), with the disparity falling across racial lines. A higher percentage of people who are Non-Hispanic Black and Hispanic or Latino live in a food desert than people who are Non-Hispanic White. This is true in all counties except Nassau, where Hispanic or Latinos live in a food desert to a lesser extent than Non-Hispanic Whites.

Healthy Food Disparity Index Score



Data Source: See page 92

Primary Data Source Comments

“If folks are living, you know, in an area with a food desert or they are so ill that they can’t go to the store, shouldn’t be out in the world, they can’t run all over town, you know, because there’s a sale on bread here and there’s, yeah, I can afford, you know, something over here. They don’t have that capacity.”

“Sometimes you might not live necessarily in a food desert, but you can’t really get to the grocery store. Sometimes all of these layer, right? So you have transportation, back in access, but you could actually have a transportation issue to food, right, and not to mention the economic components associated with that. The retailers that take SNAP benefits and then where they are, and then fast food environment is another thing.”

“For me, grocery store, a lot of these areas are food deserts, which means that they don’t have access to healthy options. So, the result to what they have is typically fast food, unhealthy food, and food of convenience.”

“There’s 12 different places in Nassau County that you can pick up food for free. And so I think we as a community do a good job with that, but seeing the number of people that come through the lines says that it’s still a problem.”

“I think what jumps out to me here is, gosh, we do so much work in food security, but food insecurity still kind of jumps out at me. I mean, I know that we’re doing more. It just seems like it’s still such a huge, huge, huge challenge.”

“Within the last month we learned that our provider is currently only serving about 100 individuals with the Meals on Wheels program. There’s over 400 individuals on the wait list.”

“Yeah, the first area, I will say food insecurity and SNAP. So I personally started a food pantry at the Players Center because we had so many families that were coming from other countries. They would show up at Wolfson’s ER and they’re not eligible for benefits. They can’t get SNAP. So there is a lot of food insecurity.”

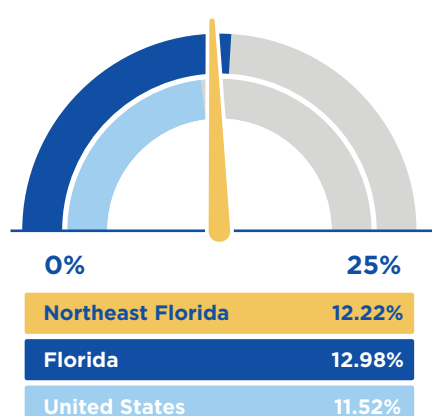


Secondary Data Summary

FOOD ENVIRONMENT

SNAP Benefits - Households Receiving SNAP

In Northeast Florida, an estimate of 76,137 or 12.22% of households receive Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) benefits. The value for the report area is greater than the national average of 11.52%. This indicator is relevant because it assesses vulnerable populations which are more likely to have multiple health access, health status, and social support needs; when combined with poverty data, providers can use this measure to identify gaps in eligibility and enrollment.



Report Area	Total Population	Households Receiving SNAP Benefits	Percent Households Receiving SNAP Benefits
Northeast Florida	623,232	76,137	12.22%
Baker County, FL	9,004	1,739	19.31%
Clay County, FL	79,704	7,338	9.21%
Duval County, FL	396,132	59,219	14.95%
Nassau County, FL	36,336	2,978	8.20%
St. Johns County, FL	102,056	4,863	4.77%
Florida	8,353,441	1,084,253	12.98%
United States	125,736,353	14,486,880	11.52%

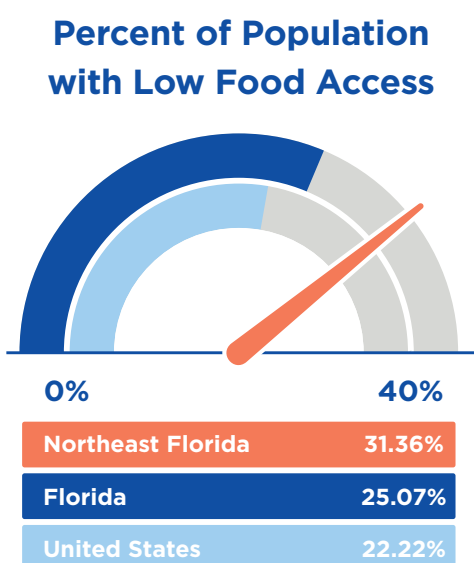
Note: This indicator is compared to the state average.
Data Source: US Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 2018-22

FOOD ENVIRONMENT

Low Food Access

This indicator reports the percentage of the population with low food access. Low food access is defined as living more than 1 mile (urban) or 10 miles (rural) from the nearest supermarket, supercenter, or large grocery store. Data are from the 2019 Food Access Research Atlas dataset. This indicator is relevant because it highlights populations and geographies facing food insecurity.

31.36% of the total population in Northeast Florida has low food access. The population in the report area with low food access is 421,957.



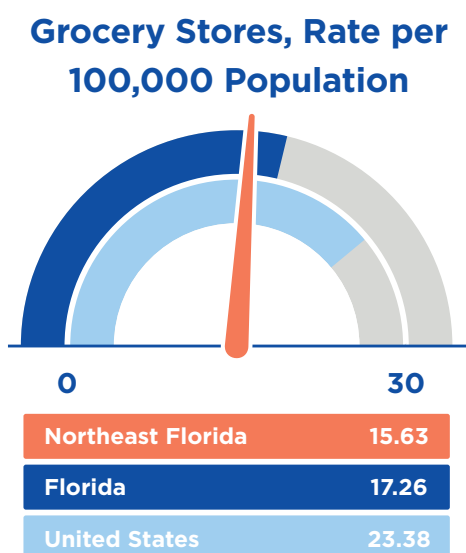
Report Area	Total Population (2010)	Population with Low Food Access	Percent Population with Low Food Access
Northeast Florida	1,345,596	421,957	31.36%
Baker County, FL	27,115	15,066	55.56%
Clay County, FL	190,865	66,319	34.75%
Duval County, FL	864,263	253,891	29.38%
Nassau County, FL	73,314	32,237	43.97%
St. Johns County, FL	190,039	54,444	28.65%
Florida	18,801,310	4,712,762	25.07%
United States	308,745,538	68,611,398	22.22%

Note: This indicator is compared to the state average.
Data Source: US Department of Agriculture, Economic Research Service, USDA - Food Access Research Atlas, 2019

FOOD ENVIRONMENT

Grocery Stores

Healthy dietary behaviors are supported by access to healthy foods, and grocery stores are a major provider of these foods. There are 251 grocery establishments in Northeast Florida, a rate of 15.63 per 100,000 population. Grocery stores are defined as supermarkets and smaller grocery stores primarily engaged in retailing a general line of food, such as canned and frozen foods; fresh fruits and vegetables; and fresh and prepared meats, fish, and poultry. Delicatessen-type establishments are also included. Convenience stores and large general merchandise stores that also retail food, such as supercenters and warehouse club stores, are excluded.



Report Area	Total Population (2020)	Number of Establishments	Establishments, Rate per 100,000 Population
Northeast Florida	1,605,848	251	15.63
Baker County, FL	28,259	4	14.15
Clay County, FL	218,245	23	10.54
Duval County, FL	995,567	178	17.88
Nassau County, FL	90,352	12	13.28
St. Johns County, FL	273,425	34	12.43
Florida	21,538,187	3,718	17.26
United States	266,610,714	62,329	23.38

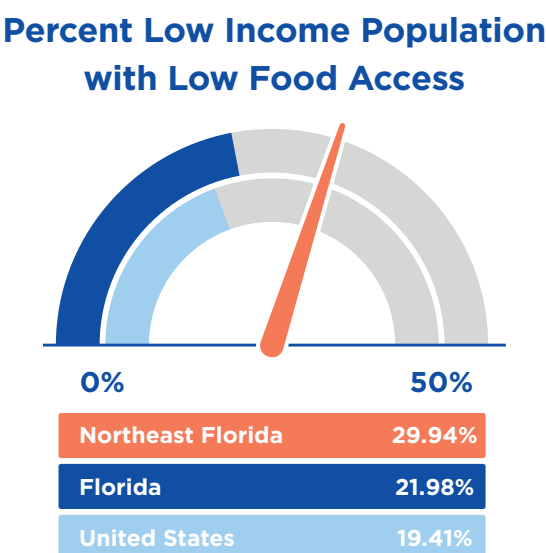
Note: This indicator is compared to the state average.
Data Source: US Census Bureau, County Business Patterns, Additional data analysis by CARES, 2021

FOOD ENVIRONMENT

Low Income & Low Food Access

This indicator reports the percentage of the low income populations with low food access. Low food access is defined as living more than 1 mile (urban) or 10 miles (rural) from the nearest supermarket, supercenter, or large grocery store. Data are from the April 2019 Food Access Research Atlas dataset. This indicator is relevant because it highlights populations and geographies facing food insecurity.

Of the low-income populations in Northeast Florida, 29.94% have low food access. The total low-income population in the report area with low food access is 124,536.



Report Area	Total Population	Low Income Population	Low Income Population with Low Food Access	Percent Low Income Population with Low Food Access
Northeast Florida	1,345,596	415,920	124,536	29.94%
Baker County, FL	27,115	8,956	4,631	51.71%
Clay County, FL	190,865	51,695	16,383	31.69%
Duval County, FL	864,263	298,877	84,225	28.18%
Nassau County, FL	73,314	17,742	8,892	50.12%
St. Johns County, FL	190,039	38,650	10,405	26.92%
Florida	18,801,310	6,493,825	1,427,401	21.98%
United States	308,745,538	97,055,825	18,834,033	19.41%

Note: This indicator is compared to the state average.
Data Source: US Department of Agriculture, Economic Research Service, USDA – Food Access Research Atlas, 2019

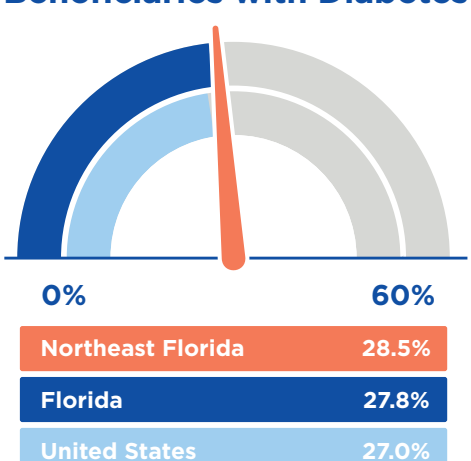
CHRONIC CONDITIONS

Diabetes Prevalence
(Medicare Population)

This indicator reports the number and percentage of the Medicare Fee-for-Service population with diabetes. Data are based upon Medicare administrative enrollment and claims data for Medicare beneficiaries enrolled in the Fee-for Service program.

Within Northeast Florida, there were 47,597 beneficiaries with diabetes based on administrative claims data in the latest report year. This represents 28.5% of the total Medicare Fee-for-Service beneficiaries.

Percentage of Medicare Beneficiaries with Diabetes



Report Area	Total Medicare Fee-for-Service Beneficiaries	Beneficiaries with Diabetes	Beneficiaries with Diabetes, Percent
Northeast Florida	168,898	47,597	28.5%
Baker County, FL	3,060	1,108	36.2%
Clay County, FL	27,035	7,997	29.6%
Duval County, FL	87,806	27,196	31.0%
Nassau County, FL	13,562	3,517	25.9%
St. Johns County, FL	35,435	7,779	22.0%
Florida	2,200,536	612,024	27.8%
United States	33,499,472	9,029,582	27.0%

Note: This indicator is compared to the state average.
Data Source: Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services, Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services - Chronic Conditions. 2018.

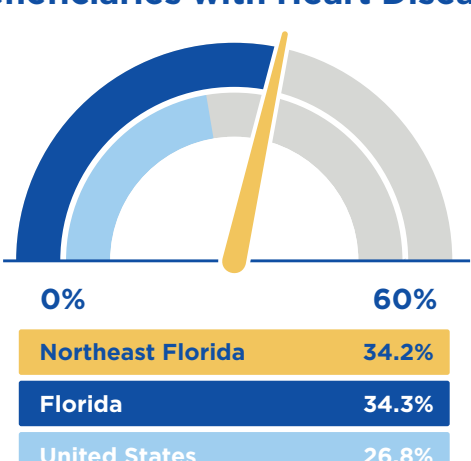
CHRONIC CONDITIONS

Heart Disease
(Medicare Population)

This indicator reports the number and percentage of the Medicare Fee-for-Service population with ischemic heart disease. Data are based upon Medicare administrative enrollment and claims data for Medicare beneficiaries enrolled in the Fee-for-Service program.

Within Northeast Florida, there were 57,074 beneficiaries with ischemic heart disease based on administrative claims data in the latest report year. This represents 34.2% of the total Medicare Fee-for-Service beneficiaries.

Percentage of Medicare Beneficiaries with Heart Disease



Report Area	Total Medicare Fee-for-Service Beneficiaries	Beneficiaries with Heart Disease	Beneficiaries with Heart Disease, Percent
Northeast Florida	166,898	57,074	34.2%
Baker County, FL	3,060	1,169	38.2%
Clay County, FL	27,035	9,917	36.7%
Duval County, FL	87,806	30,519	34.8%
Nassau County, FL	13,562	4,114	30.3%
St. Johns County, FL	35,435	11,355	32.0%
Florida	2,200,536	754,304	34.3%
United States	33,499,472	8,979,902	26.8%

Note: This indicator is compared to the state average.
Data Source: Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services, Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services - Chronic Conditions. 2018.

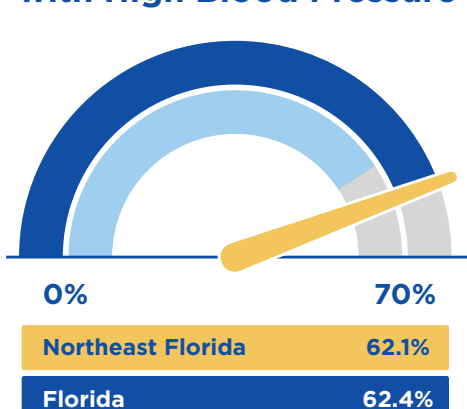
CHRONIC CONDITIONS

High Blood Pressure
(Medicare Population)

This indicator reports the number and percentage of the Medicare Fee-for-Service population with hypertension (high blood pressure). Data are based upon Medicare administrative enrollment and claims data for Medicare beneficiaries enrolled in the Fee-for-Service program.

Within Northeast Florida, there were 103,594 beneficiaries with hypertension (high blood pressure) based on administrative claims data in the latest report year. This represents 62.1% of the total Medicare Fee-for-Service beneficiaries.

Percentage of Medicare Beneficiaries
with High Blood Pressure



Report Area	Total Medicare Fee-for-Service Beneficiaries	Beneficiaries with High Blood Pressure	Beneficiaries with High Blood Pressure (%)
Northeast Florida	166,898	103,594	62.1%
Baker County, FL	3,060	2,015	65.8%
Clay County, FL	27,035	16,200	59.9%
Duval County, FL	87,806	56,160	64.0%
Nassau County, FL	13,562	8,297	61.2%
St. Johns County, FL	35,435	20,922	59.0%
Florida	2,200,536	1,372,692	62.4%
United States	33,499,472	19,162,770	57.2%

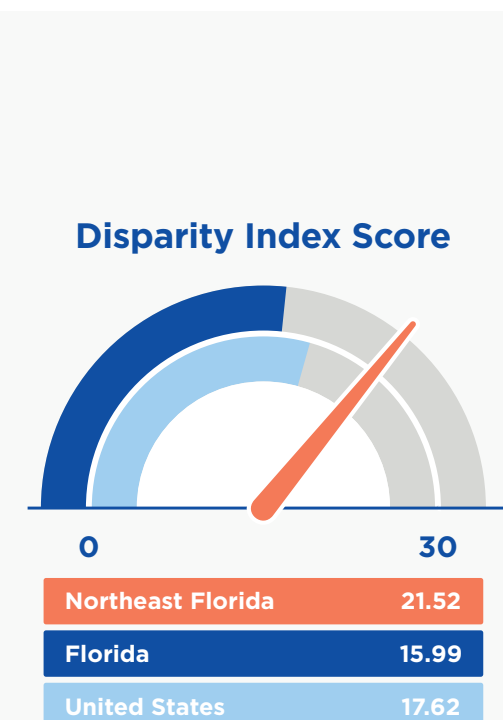
Note: This indicator is compared to the state average.
Data Source: Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services, Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services - Chronic Conditions. 2018.



ACCESS

Healthy Food Access Disparities

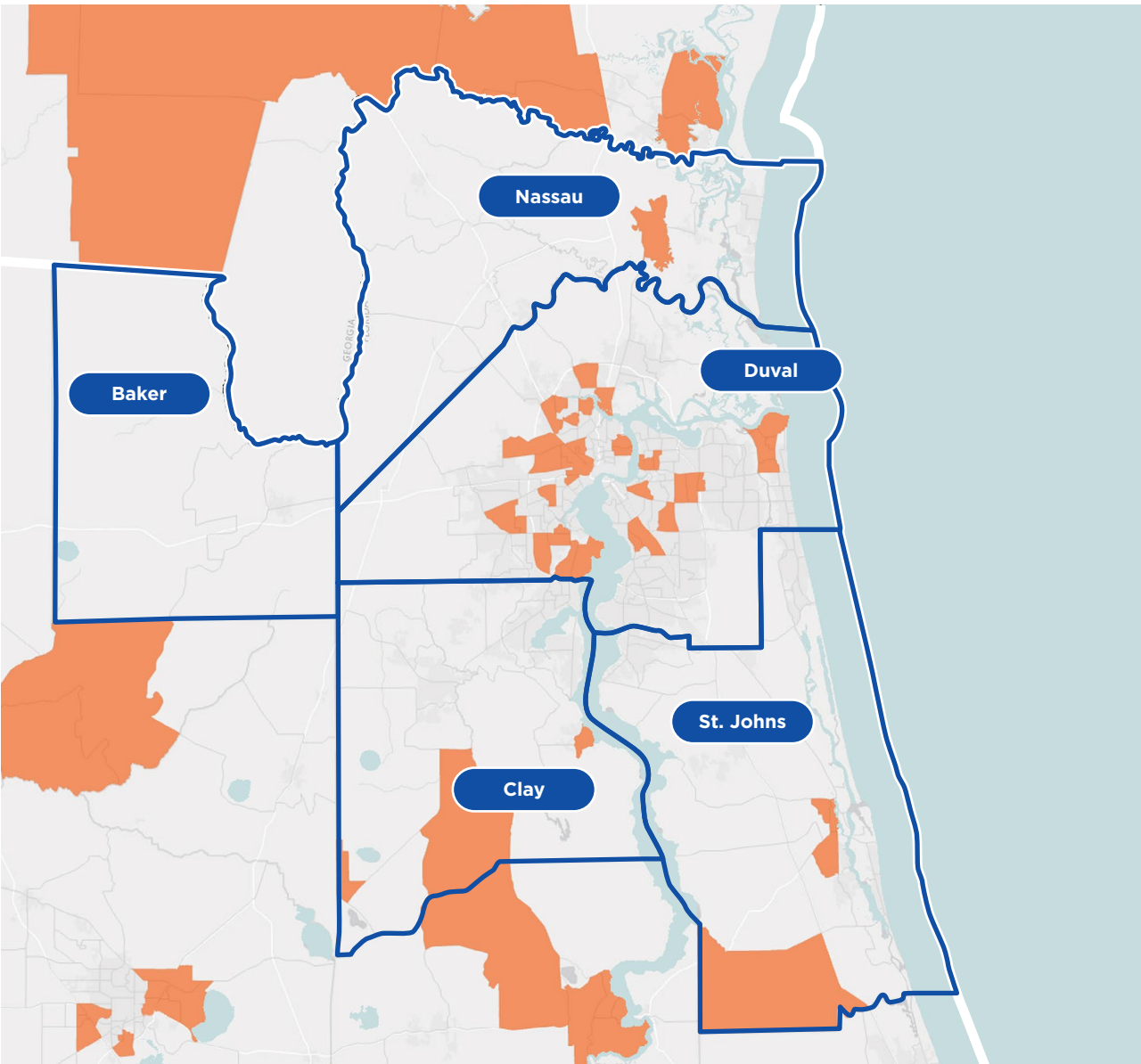
This indicator reports the percentage of the report area population living in a food desert by population race and ethnicity. A food desert is defined as a low-income neighborhood (census tract) where a large proportion of the population does not have access to a large grocery store. The disparity index score is a relative measure which expresses the magnitude of disparity in food access across population groups, with a score of 0 representing perfect equality, and a score of 100 representing perfect disparity.



Report Area	Non-Hispanic White	Hispanic or Latino	Non-Hispanic Black	Non-Hispanic Other Race	Disparity Index Score
Northeast Florida	17.85%	30.98%	52.18%	24.13%	21.52
Baker County, FL	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	No data
Clay County, FL	4.91%	6.75%	6.97%	2.79%	6.71
Duval County, FL	27.48%	41.11%	58.25%	31.73%	16.14
Nassau County, FL	9.00%	6.62%	14.90%	10.00%	3.83
St. Johns County, FL	9.30%	13.04%	29.16%	7.17%	10.98
Florida	20.18%	33.81%	48.46%	25.04%	15.99
United States	18.73%	36.99%	45.91%	22.59%	17.62

Note: This indicator is compared to the state average.
Data Source: Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services, Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services - Chronic Conditions. 2018.

Food Desert Census Tracts
1 Mi / 10 Mi. by Census Tract, USDA - FARA 2019

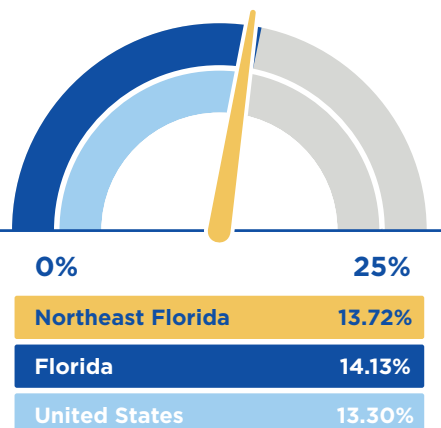


FOOD INSECURITY

Food Insecure Children

This indicator reports the estimated percentage of the population under age 18 that experienced food insecurity at some point during the report year. Food insecurity is the household-level economic and social condition of limited or uncertain access to adequate food.

Child Food Insecurity Rate



Report Area	Population Under Age 18	Food Insecure Children, Total	Child Food Insecurity Rate
Northeast Florida	356,886	48,960	13.72%
Baker County, FL	6,636	730	11%
Clay County, FL	50,769	5,280	10.4%
Duval County, FL	223,450	38,210	17.1%
Nassau County, FL	17,600	1,760	10%
St. Johns County, FL	58,431	2,980	5.1%
Florida	8,549,720	1,208,230	14.13%
United States	73,952,213	9,833,740	13.30%

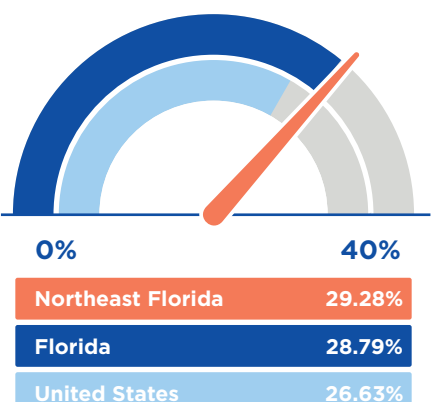
Data Source: Feeding America 2021.

FOOD INSECURITY

Food Insecure Population Ineligible for SNAP Assistance

This indicator reports the estimated percentage of the total population and the population under age 18 that experienced food insecurity at some point during the report year, but are ineligible for SNAP assistance. Food insecurity is the household-level economic and social condition of limited or uncertain access to adequate food. Assistance eligibility is determined based on household income of the food insecure households relative to the maximum income-to-poverty ration for SNAP.

Food Insecure Children Ineligible for Assistance, Percent



Report Area	Food Insecure Population	Food Insecure Population Ineligible for Assistance, Percent	Food Insecure Children	Food Insecure Children Ineligible for Assistance, Percent
Northeast Florida	154,210	35.58%	48,960	29.28%
Baker County, FL	2,770	35.6%	730	24%
Clay County, FL	18,960	34.4%	5,280	21%
Duval County, FL	104,030	33.2%	38,210	31%
Nassau County, FL	8,570	40.8%	1,760	33%
St. Johns County, FL	19,880	46.9%	2,980	21%
Florida	2,116,370	30.28%	595,050	28.79%
United States	33,885,470	36.77%	9,833,740	26.63%

Data Source: Feeding America 2021.



Section IV

Process and Methods to Conduct the CHNA




Key Stakeholder and Group Listening Sessions Methodology

Our primary data collection began through a deductive interview approach using twelve (12) categories of health needs commonly identified within the social determinants of health literature and frameworks. Specifically, we drew upon:





- ✓ Well-Being in the Nation Measurement Framework
- ✓ County Health Rankings and Roadmaps
- ✓ Healthy People 2030




These 12 categories were organized across 3 domains - People, Places, and Equity. Each of the 12 categories had several sub-categories associated with it also determined through the evaluation of the above frameworks. Throughout our Key Stakeholder Interviews and Group Listening Sessions we presented each domain, seeking input as to needs / barriers / issues within the category and sub-category level, and offering the opportunity to speak to additional sub-categories not otherwise listed.

Vision care, specialty care, dementia, autism, and hypertension, for example, were a few sub-categories mentioned but not listed.

People		
 Access to Care	<ul style="list-style-type: none">✓ Primary Care✓ Mental Health✓ Hospitals✓ Clinics✓ Dental Care	<ul style="list-style-type: none">✓ Insurance✓ Transportation✓ Health Literacy✓ Cultural Competency
 Health Conditions	<ul style="list-style-type: none">✓ Birth Outcomes✓ Obesity✓ Diabetes✓ Heart Disease✓ Asthma	<ul style="list-style-type: none">✓ Stroke✓ Cancer✓ Dementia✓ Kidney
 Health Behavior	<ul style="list-style-type: none">✓ Tobacco✓ Alcohol✓ Drugs✓ Diet	<ul style="list-style-type: none">✓ STIs✓ Movement✓ Breastfeeding
 Mental Health	<ul style="list-style-type: none">✓ Suicide✓ Deaths of Despair✓ Depression✓ Isolation	<ul style="list-style-type: none">✓ Stress✓ Anxiety✓ Serious Mental Illness✓ Trauma

Places		
 Food Environment	<ul style="list-style-type: none">✓ Food Insecurity✓ Healthy Food Access✓ Food Deserts	<ul style="list-style-type: none">✓ Grocery Store Accessibility✓ SNAP✓ Fast Food
 Built Environment	<ul style="list-style-type: none">✓ Walkability✓ Park Access✓ Broadband Access✓ Air Quality	<ul style="list-style-type: none">✓ Public Transit✓ Liquor Stores✓ Tobacco Retailers
 Community Vitality	<ul style="list-style-type: none">✓ Social Inclusion✓ Older Adults Living Alone✓ Civic Engagement	<ul style="list-style-type: none">✓ Economic Vitality✓ Place Attachment
 Community Safety	<ul style="list-style-type: none">✓ Arrests✓ Firearm Mortality✓ Violent Crime	<ul style="list-style-type: none">✓ Property Crime✓ Disengaged Youth✓ Motor Vehicle Fatalities

Equity		
 Housing	<ul style="list-style-type: none">✓ Housing Cost Burden 50%✓ Affordable Housing✓ Homelessness	<ul style="list-style-type: none">✓ Homeless Youth✓ Housing Quality✓ Evictions
 Financial Stability	<ul style="list-style-type: none">✓ Unemployment✓ Childhood Poverty✓ Median HH Income	<ul style="list-style-type: none">✓ Labor Force✓ Debt✓ Housing Cost Burden 30%
 Education	<ul style="list-style-type: none">✓ Childcare Scarcity✓ Preschool Enrollment	<ul style="list-style-type: none">✓ Education Attainment✓ Absenteeism✓ Language Arts Proficiency
 Inclusion & Equity	<ul style="list-style-type: none">✓ Food Disparities✓ Insurance Disparities✓ Broadband Disparities✓ Education Disparities	<ul style="list-style-type: none">✓ Neighborhood Segregation✓ Income Inequality✓ Premature Death Disparities

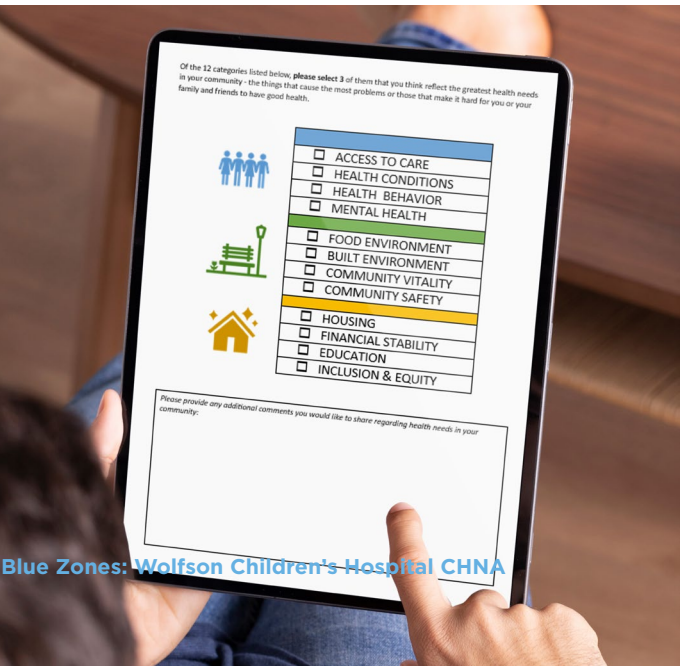
Health Need Category	Codes Applied
 People	
Access to Care	149
Health Conditions	29
Healthy Behavior	28
Mental Health	49
 Places	
Food Environment	40
Built Environment	41
Community Vitality	12
Community Safety	22
 Equity	
Housing	61
Financial Stability	21
Education	9
Equity	35
Total	496



Each key stakeholder interview and group listening session was recorded, transcribed, and uploaded into Dedoose – a qualitative analysis software tool. Each transcript was then coded, applying health needs categories as parent codes and associated sub-categories as child codes to transcript excerpts. After exporting the data, we made adjustments blending or collapsing certain child codes and associated parent codes into areas without much distinction. For example, we added the public transit codes from the built environment category to the transportation codes in the access to care category, ensuring the codes were not otherwise duplicated.

This resulted in the application of 496 codes across 66 child (sub-category) codes, positioning us to make additional calculations such as the percent of interviews that identified the category as problematic, the percent of times the code was applied, as well as further drill-down within each category. The leading health needs categories from this analysis were Access to Care, Housing and Mental Health.

We also asked all interview participants to select the three categories each perceived as the highest need along with an opportunity to share additional comments. For in-person interviews, a scoring tool was distributed and returned with the participants’ selections marked. For virtual interviews, we asked participants to put their selections in the chat or we used a polling feature, which similarly provided the virtual participants the same tool to view on-screen.

Of the 129 interview participants, 116 (90%) completed a tally sheet and/or replied in a chat or poll, providing 347 total responses. We counted each instance a category was selected and then calculated the percentage that category was selected as one of the top three categories, positioning us to use the data in later analysis. The findings of the polling were consistent with the coding results, with access to care, housing, and mental health leading the categories.



Health Need Category	Total Times Selected as Top 3	Percent Selected as Top 3
 People		
Access to Care	72	62%
Health Conditions	20	17%
Healthy Behavior	17	15%
Mental Health	57	49%
 Places		
Food Environment	25	22%
Built Environment	12	10%
Community Vitality	5	4%
Community Safety	13	11%
 Equity		
Housing	71	61%
Financial Stability	30	26%
Education	7	6%
Equity	18	16%

Community Conversations Methodology

For our community conversations, we used an interview sheet and asked each person whether they or people around them were experiencing any of the health needs listed on the sheet, and we documented the conversations as we talked. The interview sheet included the same 12 categories of health needs and associated sub-categories as for the key stakeholder and group listening sessions.

We also conducted a Cantril Ladder assessment on each person and, using a visual representation of a ladder, we asked them to tell us which rung, with 0 being the worst possible life and 10 being the best possible life, represented their life today. We did not see any patterns emerge with the Cantril Ladder data (scores ranged from 0-10 overall). It was therefore not used in any of our subsequent data analysis.



Blue Zones: Wolfson Children's Hospital CHNA

Health Need Category	Codes Applied
People	
Access to Care	82
Health Conditions	46
Healthy Behavior	32
Mental Health	47
Places	
Food Environment	37
Built Environment	42
Community Vitality	11
Community Safety	37
Equity	
Housing	69
Financial Stability	38
Education	18
Equity	9
Total	468

Blue Zones: Wolfson Children's Hospital CHNA

We then hand-coded the interview sheets ensuring a 1:1 parent-to-child code application (for each child code applied, there is a corresponding parent code). This resulted in the application of 468 codes across the 66 child (sub-category) codes and positioned us to make additional calculations such as the percent of conversations that identified the category as problematic, the percent of times the code was applied, as well as further drill-down within each category.

The community conversations resulted in the same three categories rising to the top as the key stakeholder interviews and group listening sessions: Access to Care, Housing, and Mental Health.



Secondary Data Methodology

For our secondary data source, we used CARES (The Center for Applied Research and Engagement Systems) based out of the University of Missouri. CARES is a comprehensive community needs dataset using data from 110 data providers and 781 data sets, including the US Census Bureau, American Community Survey (ACS), Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), United States Department of Agriculture (USDA), Department of Transportation, Federal Bureau of Investigation, and more. Data geographies range from state, county, city, census tract, school district, and ZIP code levels.

Measures associated with each health needs category were identified based on their direct and indirect relationship to the category and sub-categories by using the health measurement frameworks listed above and by reviewing other CHNA models. We also maintained a consistent set of measures reflective of long-term outcomes across all categories. Each measure was then evaluated as to whether it was performing worse (yes) than or better (no) than the state or the U.S. The percentage of measures performing worse than the respective comparison was then calculated for each health need category.

The number of measures per health needs category ranged from 21 to 39. To review the secondary data evaluated for each of the 12 health needs categories please see the [appendix](#).



Prioritization Methodology

To determine the highest priority health needs, we first determined those health needs categories that were significant by applying the following three principles:

1. **Principle:** Incorporate the analysis conducted for the secondary data, the interviews, and the community conversations.

Application: We chose the following calculations for each of the respective data types:

- ✔ **Secondary Data:** The percent of the selected measures associated with each category that performed poorly as compared to the state and to the U.S.
- ✔ **Interview Data:** The percent of the interviews that identified the respective category as problematic
- ✔ **Community Conversations:** The percent of community conversations that identified the respective category as problematic.

2. **Principle:** Determine a threshold value for each data source based on the range of respective results.

Application: We selected the median for each data type after conducting means, median and percent testing. This means that if any individual data type scored above the median, a health needs category was potentially significant.

3. **Principle:** Ensure primary data is valued greater than secondary data to ensure primary voices are heard.

Application: A health need category was determined to be significant if two out of three of the following were true:

- ✔ If the percent of associated measures performing poorly compared to the state or U.S. > median
- ✔ If the percent of interviews that identified the category as problematic > median
- ✔ If the percent of community conversations that identified the category as problematic > median

This methodology resulted in determining that six of the initial twelve health need categories were significant. These include access to care, mental health, food environment, built environment, community safety, and housing.

	Peach Above median of 54%	Yellow Above median of 64%	Blue Above median of 64%	Blue Above median of 33%
Health Need Category	Percent of associated indicators performing poorly compared to state	Percent of associated indicators performing poorly compared to U.S.	Percent of interviews that identified category as problematic	Percent of community conversations that identified category as problematic
Access to Care	51%	66%	100%	60%
Health Conditions	63%	86%	56%	31%
Healthy Behavior	67%	82%	44%	32%
Mental Health	59%	86%	81%	29%
Food Environment	56%	68%	81%	39%
Built Environment	47%	50%	85%	44%
Community Vitality	65%	73%	41%	13%
Community Safety	71%	62%	63%	35%
Housing	39%	48%	96%	65%
Financial Stability	44%	47%	59%	42%
Education	48%	55%	33%	18%
Inclusion & Equity	47%	53%	56%	10%



Once certain health needs were determined to be significant, we then turned to prioritizing them by calculating a priority index score for each. To do this, we considered the breadth and intensity of the primary data.

For the breadth, we calculated:

- ✓ The percent of all primary source data (interviews and conversations) that identified the respective health need as problematic, and
- ✓ The total number of times all primary source data (interviews and conversations) identified the respective health need as problematic - based on the number of associated sub-category codes.

For the intensity, we included:

- ✓ The percentage of times the respective health need was selected as a top three, and
- ✓ The number of times the respective health need was selected as a top three.

We then re-scaled the breadth and the intensity “number of times” values so that the minimum would be zero and the maximum would be one. Each significant health need’s priority index score was then determined by adding the respective four values (the percent values and the rescaled “number of times” values) for each significant health need. Access to Care had the highest priority index score of 3.33, followed by Housing with 2.75 and Mental Health with 1.82.

Breadth		Breadth	Intensity		Intensity		
Health Need Category	Percent of all primary data sources that identified health need as problematic	Number of times health need identified as problematic, all sources	Rescaled	Percentage of times health need selected as top three	Number of times health need selected as top three	Re-scaled	Priority Index Score
1 Access to Care	0.71	231	1.00	0.62	72	1.00	3.33
2 Housing	0.74	130	0.41	0.61	71	0.98	2.75
3 Mental Health	0.36	96	0.22	0.49	57	0.75	1.82
4 Food Environment	0.51	77	0.10	0.22	25	0.20	1.03
5 Built Environment	0.56	83	0.14	0.10	12	0.00	0.80
6 Community Safety	0.42	59	0.00	0.11	13	0.02	0.55

Because the intent of conducting the Community Health Needs Assessment is not just to identify and prioritize the significant health needs, but also to respond to them, our final step in analysis was to understand the sub-categories that served as primary drivers of each prioritized significant health need. Addressing the underlying driver(s) is more likely than otherwise to have an overall positive impact on the health need category itself.

Access to Care Sub-Categories	Interviews	Conversations	Total
Health Insurance	49	27	76
Transportation	33	29	62
Dental Care	17	10	27
Specialty Care	13	6	19
Cultural Competency	13	2	15
Primary Care	8	5	13
Health Literacy	11	0	11
Accessibility	4	0	4
Hospitals	0	2	2
Vision Care	1	1	2
	149	82	231

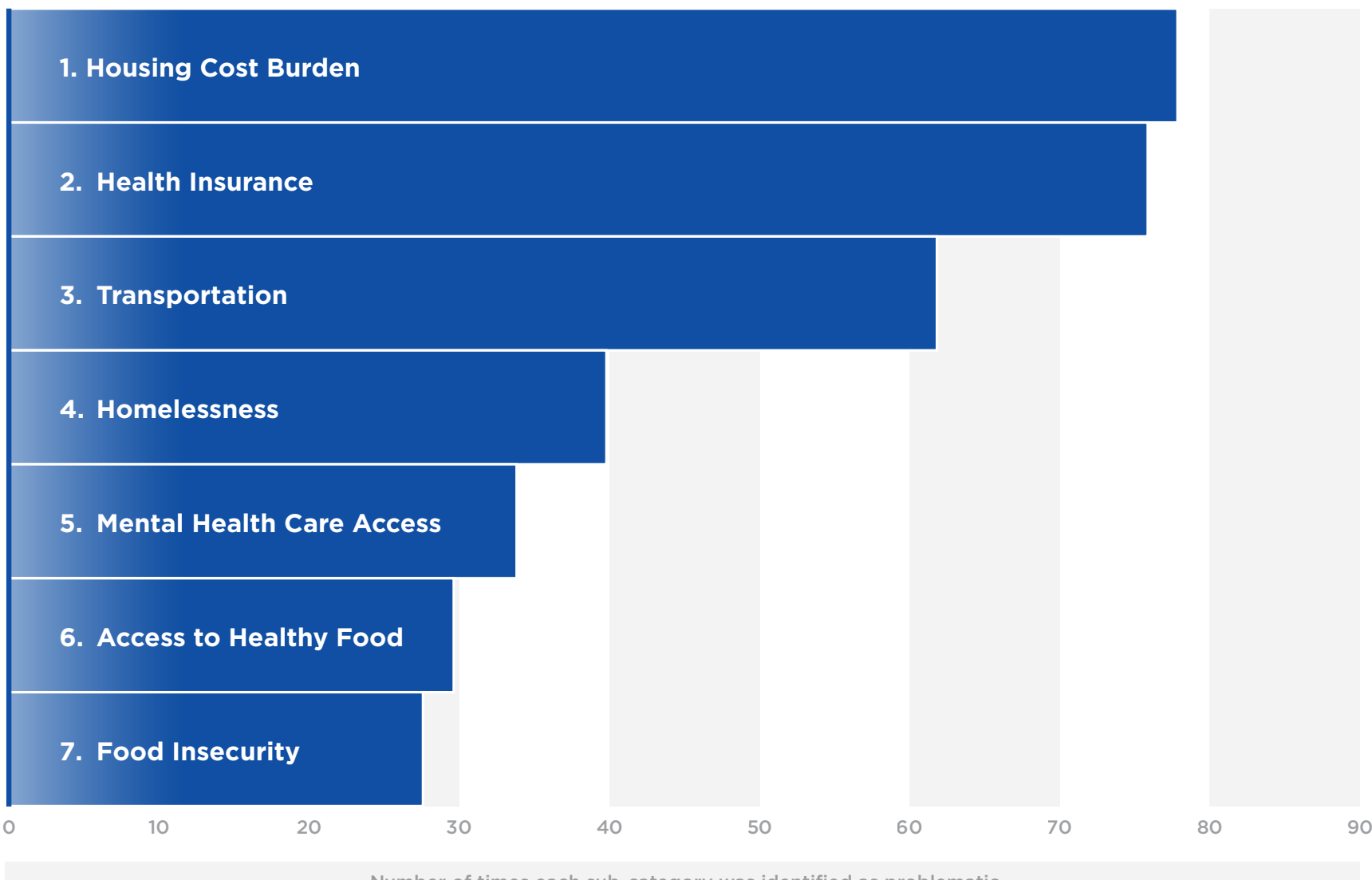
Housing Sub-Categories	Interviews	Conversations	Total
Housing Cost Burden	38	60	78
Homelessness	11	29	40
Unstable Housing	7	0	7
Evictions	5	0	5
Quality of Housing	0	0	0
	61	69	130

Mental Health Sub-Categories	Interviews	Conversations	Total
Mental Health Access	25	9	34
Stress	4	9	13
Depression	3	9	12
Anxiety	4	7	11
Isolation	6	4	10
Suicide	5	1	6
Trauma	2	4	6
Severe Mental Illness	0	2	2
Deaths of Despair	0	2	2
	49	47	96

Food Environment Sub-Categories	Interviews	Conversations	Total
Access to Healthy Food	16	14	30
Food Insecurity	14	14	28
Food Desert	4	6	10
Fast Food	4	3	7
SNAP	2	0	2
	40	37	77

A re-ordering of the significant health need categories by their most problematic sub-categories resulted in a final prioritization of:

Significant Health Need by Sub-category



Next Steps

The next steps in the CHNA process include the development of an implementation strategy to address the significant health needs identified. Using evidence-based solutions and programs to address the priority needs, each hospital in the JNHP will work to develop its strategy based on the result of this CHNA.

In advance of each hospital selecting its own strategies, the JNHP decided to come together and identify a priority area and an associated initiative that it would work on collectively. Following the presentation of the CHNA findings, the JNHP representatives engaged in a facilitated exercise to do just that.

The facilitated exercise included a “sticky note” exercise for each of the 7 prioritized health needs. Each participant, after review of each health need and prior associated strategies (if any), and group discussion and deliberation, wrote on a sticky note as many strategies as they wanted and placed them on the corresponding large wall Post-it boards.

The group then did a step-back view of the wall boards to review the ideas on the sticky notes. Following that, the group did two rounds of a “dot prioritization” exercise to vote (with sticky dots) for the health need they wanted to address. Through this process, transportation, one of the drivers of access to care, was selected.

All the ideas on the transportation board were then reviewed for overlapping ideas and central themes. Four ideas emerged from this process and each was added to a criteria-based decision tool. The JNHP will continue to review potential strategies to address the priority health needs.





Section V

Acknowledgments

Jacksonville Nonprofit Hospital Partnership Representatives

Throughout the CHNA process, the following representatives of the JNHP not only showed their engagement and shared their unique perspectives, but their passion and commitment to make Northeast Florida a healthier place in which people are born, grow, live, work and age was palpable.

Paula Bides
Director, Community Benefit, Ascension Florida and Gulf Coast

Toni Callahan
Manager, Community Health & Well-Being, Baptist Health

Glenwood Charles, Jr.
Senior Community Partner Coordinator, Baptist Health

Jessica Cummings
Vice President, Community Engagement, Brooks Rehabilitation

Katie Ensign
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Ashley Pratt
Community Relations, Mayo Clinic in Florida

CHNA Consultants

This CHNA was conducted on behalf of the JNHP by Blue Zones, LLC. Blue Zones is a company that is dedicated to transforming well-being where people live, work, learn, grow up and grow old. For over 20 years, Blue Zones has been on the ground in hundreds of American cities and organizations co-creating and implementing evidence-informed well-being transformation programs to create sustainable, systems-level solutions that improve population health and economic vitality. Blue Zones partners with public and private sector leaders to increase the well-being of communities leading to greater stability, reduced health care costs and disparities, and increased resilience. Blue Zones partners with organizations and brands that want to make meaningful, sustainable impact for their employees, members, and customers.

The first step in its work in any community is assessing the community. Our community assessments go deep into the community and include policy evaluations of the built environment, food systems and tobacco. It includes engaging with community leaders, business leaders, grocery store owners and small business owners. We talk to people throughout the community, including those living in areas most impacted by disparities and inequities. We conduct surveys and draw upon publicly available data. And we observe the environment and the culture. We do this all to lay a foundation for identifying where to start; what policies and initiatives will have the greatest impact on community well-being – our key metric that correlates with living better, longer. We were very pleased to have the opportunity to apply our assessment methods and expertise for this CHNA.

Resources / Organizations

For resources and organizations potentially available to address the significant health needs, please see the [Additional Resources Appendix](#).

Data Limitations

Group Listening Sessions and Key Stakeholder interviews were conducted solely with volunteers, which could affect how broadly the community was represented. Similarly, the community conversations were not scheduled and were dependent on the willingness of people to participate when asked. Broad scale community engagement is difficult in geographically large, rural communities and large, high-population urban communities. Some of the secondary data sets used demonstrate data lag, which could alter the conclusion if more current data had a significant shift. Despite these limitations, the data provided can be seen as an accurate reflection of the community’s health needs.

Written Comments

We value input into the community health needs assessment. Please visit our public website to submit your comments.

At the time of this report development, no written comments about the previous CHNA Report or the adopted implementation strategies were received.

Approval

This community health needs assessment was adopted on _____, by _____.
The final report was made widely available on _____.





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