



# 20 AdventHealth 22 Palm Coast

## Community Health Needs Assessment

Extending the Healing  
Ministry of Christ



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## Letter From Leadership

It is my honor to serve as CEO of AdventHealth’s Central Florida Division – North Region, which includes Flagler and Volusia counties. From the sunny beaches of Palm Coast to the bustling neighborhoods of Deltona, we are on a journey together to build healthy communities.

Thank you for taking the time to review the 2022 Community Health Needs Assessment. It is the culmination of a yearlong collaborative process spearheaded and resourced by a steering committee of leaders from community-based organizations, along with six community leaders (health equity champions), who ensured we were including voices from all populations. Your health equity champions in Volusia and Flagler worked closely with the community – they reviewed materials, identified focus groups and helped to prioritize the health needs of the areas we serve. This publication includes a summary of the focus groups, the Community Health Survey, stakeholder interviews and an analysis of population-health data.

The 2022 Community Health Needs Assessment will serve as a guide as we work together with community partners, organizations and our health equity champions in developing Community Health Plans for the communities from Palm Coast to New Smyrna Beach, Daytona Beach to DeBary, DeLand and Deltona so every person has an opportunity to attain full health potential. Together our collective vision will maximize efforts through collaboration, driving our communities to success.

Thank you again for your interest in the 2022 Community Health Needs Assessment.

Audrey Gregory, Ph.D.  
 President and CEO  
 Central Florida Division North Region



## Executive Summary

Memorial Hospital - Flagler, Inc., d/b/a AdventHealth Palm Coast will be referred to in this document as AdventHealth Palm Coast or “The Hospital”. AdventHealth Palm Coast in Palm Coast, Florida conducted a community health needs assessment from August 2021 to June 2022. The goals of the assessment were to:

- Engage public health and community stakeholders including low-income, minority and other underserved populations.
- Assess and understand the community’s health issues and needs.
- Understand the health behaviors, risk factors and social determinants that impact health.
- Identify community resources and collaborate with community partners.
- Publish the Community Health Needs Assessment.
- Use assessment findings to develop and implement a 2023-2025 Community Health Plan based on the needs prioritized in the assessment process.

### The Volusia Flagler CHNA Collaborative

In order to ensure broad community input, AdventHealth Palm Coast took part in the Volusia/Flagler CHNA Collaborative, referred to as the Collaborative, to help guide the Hospital through the assessment process. The Collaborative included representation from the Hospital, public health experts and the broad community. This included intentional representation from low-income, minority and other underserved populations.

The Collaborative met three times in 2021 - 2022. They reviewed the primary and secondary data and helped to identify the top priority needs in the community.

*See Prioritization Process for a list of Collaborative members.*

### Hospital Health Needs Assessment Committee

AdventHealth Palm Coast also convened a Hospital Health Needs Assessment Committee (HHNAC). The purpose of the HHNAC was to select the needs the Hospital would address as a result of the findings in the assessment. The HHNAC made this decision by reviewing the priority needs selected by the Collaborative and the internal Hospital resources available. With this information the HHNAC was able to determine where the Hospital could most effectively support the community.

*See Prioritization Process for a list of HHNAC members.*

### Data

AdventHealth Palm Coast in collaboration with the Collaborative collected both primary and secondary data. The primary data included community surveys, stakeholder interviews and community focus groups. In addition, public data was utilized from state and national data sources. Primary and secondary data was compiled and analyzed to identify the top 15 aggregate issues.

*See Process and Methods for Primary and Secondary Data Sources.*

### Community Asset Inventory

The next step was to create a Community Asset Inventory. This inventory was designed to help the Collaborative and HHNAC understand existing community efforts to address the identified issues from aggregate primary and secondary data and to prevent duplication of efforts.

*See Available Community Resources for more.*

### Selection Criteria

The Collaborative participated in a prioritization process that consisted of two rounds of online surveying and three facilitated discussion sessions.

*See Priorities Selection for more.*



### The Collaborative and the HHNAC considered four factors during prioritization:

**A. Alignment:** Does this issue align with our mission, strategy, public-health or community goals?

**B. Impact on Community:** What is the scope, size and seriousness of this issue? What are the consequences to the health of the community of not addressing this issue now?

**C. Resources:** Are there existing, effective interventions and opportunities to partner with the community to address this issue?

**D. Outcome Opportunities:** Can an impact on this issue be made in a demonstrable way, and will interventions have an impact on other health and social issues in the community?



## Priority Issues to be Addressed

The priority issues to be addressed are:

1. Behavioral Health: Drug and Substance Use
2. Early Childhood Education
3. Community Engagement on Available Resources and Services

See *Priorities Selection for more*.

## Approval

On September 22, 2022, the AdventHealth Palm Coast Board approved the Community Health Needs Assessment findings, priority issues and final report. A link to the 2022 Community Health Needs Assessment was posted on the Hospital's website prior to December 31, 2022.

## Next Steps

AdventHealth Palm Coast will work with the Collaborative and the HHNAC to develop a measurable implementation strategy called the 2023-2025 Community Health Plan to address the priority issues. The plan will be completed and posted on the Hospital's website prior to May 15, 2023.

## About AdventHealth

AdventHealth Palm Coast Beach is part of AdventHealth. With a sacred mission of "Extending the Healing Ministry of Christ," AdventHealth strives to heal and restore the body, mind and spirit through our connected system of care.

More than 80,000 skilled and compassionate caregivers serve 4.7 million patients annually. From physician practices, hospitals, outpatient clinics, skilled nursing facilities, home health agencies and hospice centers, AdventHealth provides individualized, wholistic care at 50 hospital campuses and hundreds of care sites throughout nine states.

Committed to your care today and tomorrow, AdventHealth is investing in research, new technologies and the people behind them to redefine medicine and create healthier communities.

In a 2020 study by Stanford University, physicians and researchers from AdventHealth were featured in the ranking of the world's top two percent of scientists. These critical thinkers are changing medicine and shaping the future of health care.



Amwell, a national telehealth leader, named AdventHealth the winner of its Innovation Integration Award. This telemedicine accreditation recognizes organizations that have identified connection points within digital health care to improve clinical outcomes and user experiences. AdventHealth was recognized for its innovative digital front-door strategy, which is making it possible for patients to seamlessly navigate their health care journey. From checking health documentations and paying a bill, to conducting a virtual urgent care visit with a provider, we are making health care easier by creating pathways to wholistic care no matter where your health journey starts.

AdventHealth is also an award-winning workplace aiming to promote personal, professional and spiritual growth with its workplace culture, having been recognized by Becker's Hospital Review on its "150 Top Places to Work in Healthcare" three years straight. This recognition is given annually to health care organizations that promote workplace diversity, employee engagement and professional growth.

## AdventHealth Palm Coast

AdventHealth Palm Coast is part of Adventist Health System, one of the nation's largest not-for-profit faith-based care systems with nearly 50 hospitals and hundreds of care sites in nearly a dozen states. With the mission of Extending the Healing Ministry of Christ, AdventHealth Palm Coast provides whole person care to heal the body, mind and spirit. AdventHealth Palm Coast has 99 licensed beds. AdventHealth Palm Coast continues to grow with the community and is now comprised of the Hospital's main campus; Town Center Surgery, a freestanding outpatient center; Hospice and Home Care services; and the Parkway Medical Plaza that includes a walk-in clinic, laboratory, imaging and women's center and physician offices. A second hospital featuring 100 licensed beds is scheduled to open in Palm Coast in 2023.

For over 20 years, AdventHealth Palm Coast has served the Flagler County area and surrounding communities by providing the following comprehensive healthcare services: Cancer Care, Diabetes Care, Heart and Vascular Care, Home Care, Hospice Care, Imaging Services, Lab Services, Orthopedic Surgery, Sports Medicine and Rehab Care, Surgical Services, Emergency and Urgent Care, Wound Care.

- The Leapfrog Group, an independent national watchdog organization, awarded AdventHealth Palm Coast an "A" Hospital Safety Grade for achieving the highest national standards in patient safety. The Leapfrog Group assigns an "A," "B," "C," "D," or "F" grade to all general hospitals across the country.
- AdventHealth has opened a high-tech facility to provide nurses with the highest level of training, using leading-edge simulation technology. With five classroom labs that mimic patient rooms, the regional simulation center is the largest in AdventHealth's Central Florida footprint, which extends from Flagler County to Osceola County, south of Orlando. The center provides realistic training for nurses of all skill levels, using interactive realistic manikins that can simulate a range of health conditions and scenarios. Trainers, working from a central command center, can make the manikins "speak" and introduce new challenges that nurses then must respond to. Training extends beyond clinical care, including teaching nurses how to interact with patients and deal with family members who may become difficult as they navigate their loved ones' health challenges. The center also serves as a training site for nursing students from the University of North Florida and Jacksonville University, helping to develop the next generation of health care workers.



# COMMUNITY OVERVIEW

## Community Description

Located in Flagler County, Florida, AdventHealth Palm Coast defines its community as the Primary Service Area (PSA), the area in which 75-80% of its patient population lives. This includes three zip codes across Flagler County.

According to the 2020 Census, the population in the AdventHealth Palm Coast community has grown 20% in the last ten years to 104,446 people. This is almost three times the amount of growth in the United States since the last Census. Demographic and community profile data in this report are from publicly available data sources such as the US Census Bureau and the Center for Disease Control and Prevention unless indicated otherwise. Data are reported for the Hospital's PSA, also referred to as the community, unless listed for a specific county. Data are also provided to show how the community compares locally, in the state and at a national level for some indicators.



## Community Profile

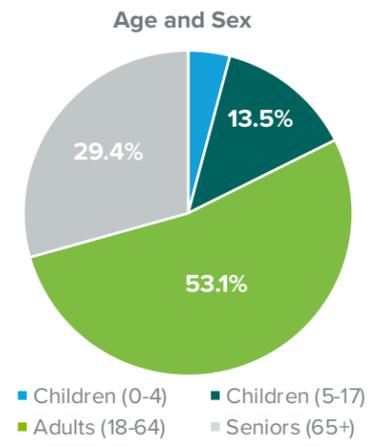
### Age and Sex

The median age in the Hospital's community is 50.5, higher than that of state which is 42.2 and the US, 38.2.

Females are the majority, representing 52.3% of the population. Middle-aged women, 40-64 are the largest demographic in the community at 17.6%.

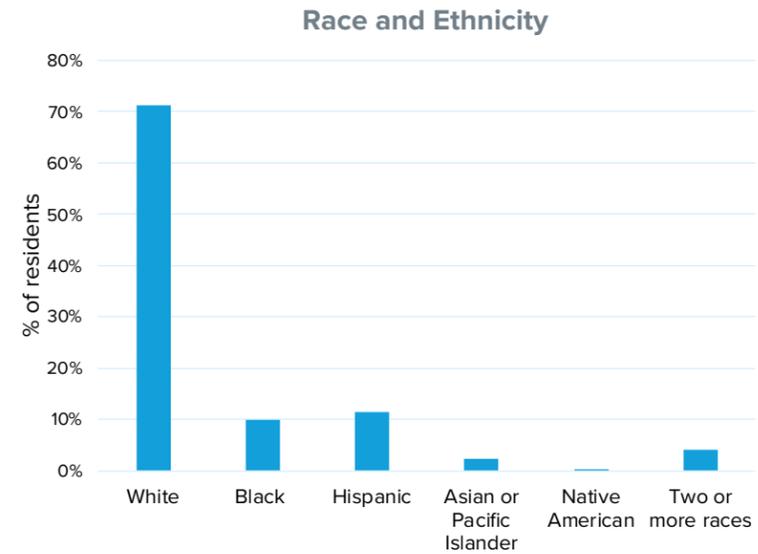
Children are 17.5% of the total population in the community. Infants, those zero to four, are 4% of that number. The community birth rate is 25 births per 1,000 women aged 15-50, this is lower than the US average of 51.9 and that of the state, 48.3. In the Hospital's community, 13.8% of children aged 0-4 and 17.4% of children aged 5-17 live in poverty.

Seniors, those 65 and older, represent 29.4% of the total population in the community. Females are 52.2% of the total senior population.



## Race and Ethnicity

In the Hospital's community, 71.3% of the residents are non-Hispanic White, 9.9% are non-Hispanic Black and 11.4% are Hispanic or Latino. Residents that are of Asian or Pacific Islander descent represent 2.3% of the total population, while .3% are Native American and 4.2% are two or more races.



## Social Determinants of Health

According to the CDC, social determinants of health (SDOH) are the conditions in the places where people live, learn, work and play that affect a wide range of health risks and outcomes. Social determinants of health are increasingly seen as the largest contributing factor to health inequities in communities throughout the country.

The Hospital categorized and analyzed SDOH data following the Healthy People 2030 model. This approach was chosen so, when possible, the Hospital could align its work with national efforts when addressing social determinants of health. For the purposes of the CHNA the Hospital will follow this model for reporting any related data.

The Healthy People 2030 place-based framework outlines five areas of SDOH:



**Economic Stability:** This includes areas such as income, cost of living, food security and housing stability.



**Education Access and Quality:** This focuses on topics such as high school graduation rates, enrollment in higher education, literacy and early childhood education and development.



**Health Care Access and Quality:** This includes topics such as access to health care, access to primary care and health insurance coverage.



**Neighborhood and Built Environment:** This includes areas like quality of housing, access to transportation, availability of healthy foods and neighborhood crime and violence.

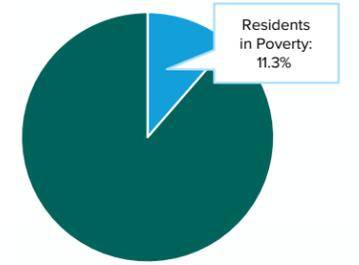


**Social and Community Context:** This focuses on topics such as community cohesion, civic participation, discrimination and incarceration.

## Economic Stability

### Income

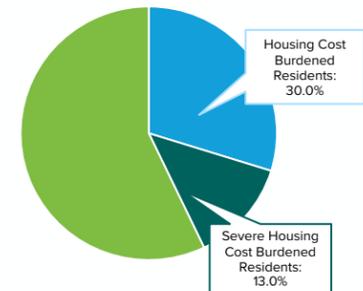
The median household income in the Hospital's community is \$62,773. This is above the median for the state and below that of the US. The poverty rate in the community is 11.3%, which is lower than both the state and national rate.



### Food Insecurity and Housing Stability

People who are food insecure, having reduced quality and/or amount of food intake, may be at an increased risk of negative health outcomes. Studies have shown an increased risk of obesity and chronic disease in adults who are food insecure.

Children who are food insecure have been found to have an increased risk of obesity and developmental problems compared to children who are not.<sup>1</sup> Feeding America estimates for 2020<sup>2</sup>, showed the food insecurity rate in the Hospital's community as 9%.



Increased evidence is showing a connection between stable and affordable housing and health.<sup>3</sup> When households are cost burdened or severely cost burdened, they have less money to spend on food, health care and other necessities. Having less access can result in more negative health outcomes. Households are considered cost burdened if they spend more than 30% of their income on housing and severely cost burdened if they spend more than 50%.

<sup>1</sup> Food Insecurity - Healthy People 2030 | health.gov

<sup>2</sup> Map the Meal Gap 2020 Combined Modules.pdf (feedingamerica.org)

<sup>3</sup> Severe housing cost burden\* | County Health Rankings & Roadmaps



## Education Access and Quality

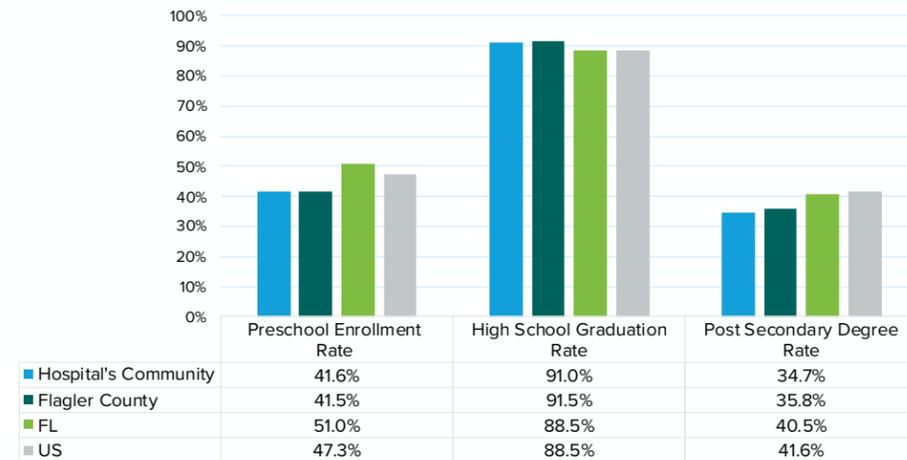
Research shows education can be a predictor of health outcomes, as well as a path to address inequality in communities.<sup>4</sup> Better education can lead to people having an increased understanding of their personal health and health needs. Higher education can also lead to better jobs, which can result in increased wages and access to health insurance.

In the Hospital's community, there is an 91% high school graduation rate, which is higher than in the state and the US. The rate of people with a post-secondary degree however is lower in the Hospital's community than both that of the state and the nation.

Early childhood education is uniquely important and can improve the cognitive and social development of children. This helps provide the foundation for long term academic success, as well as improved health outcomes. Research on early childhood education programs show that long-term benefits include improved health outcomes, savings in health care costs and increased lifetime earnings.<sup>5</sup>

In the Hospital's community, 41.6% of 3–4-year-olds were enrolled in preschool. This is lower than both the state (51%) and the national (47.3%) average. There is a large percentage of children in the community who may not be receiving these early foundational learnings.

**Educational Attainment**



<sup>4</sup> The influence of education on health: an empirical assessment of OECD countries for the period 1995–2015 | Archives of Public Health | Full Text (biomedcentral.com)

<sup>5</sup> Early Childhood Education! Health Impact in 5 Years | Health System Transformation | AD for Policy | CDC

## Health Care Access and Quality

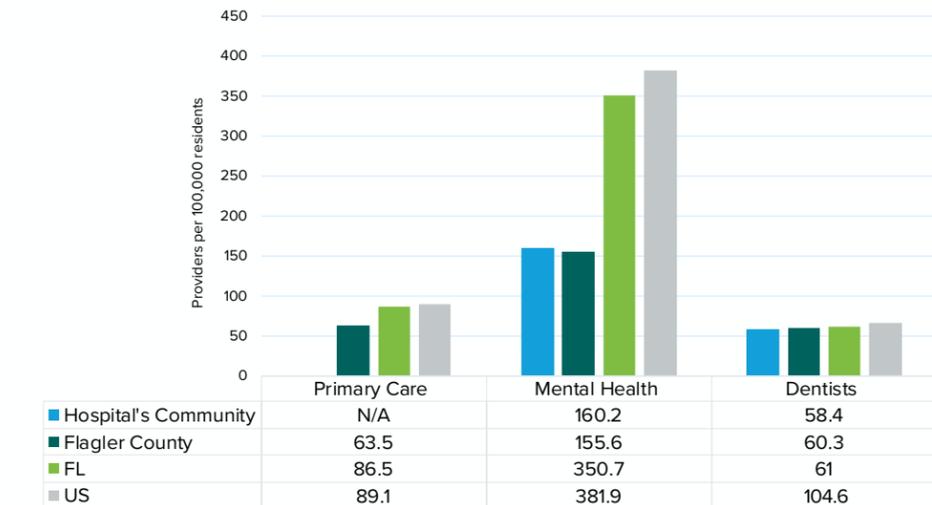
In 2020, 13.6% of community members aged 18-64 were found to not have health insurance. A lack of health insurance can lead to delayed care, resulting in more serious health conditions and increased treatment costs. Although health insurance coverage levels can be a strong indicator of a person's ability to access care, there are other potential barriers that can delay care for many people.<sup>6</sup>

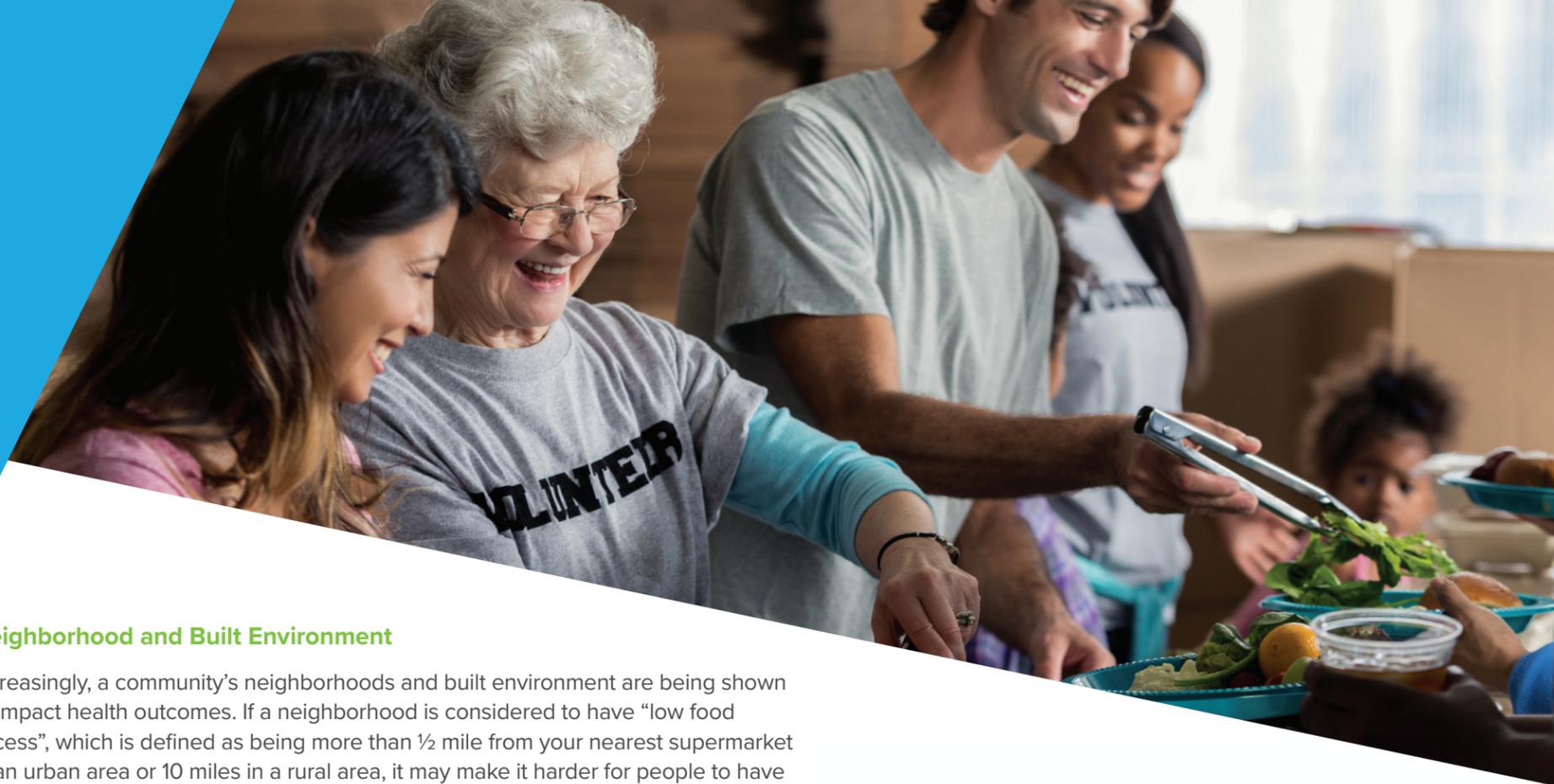
Accessing health care requires more than just insurance, there also need to be available health care professionals to provide care. When more providers are available in a community access can be easier, particularly for those experiencing transportation challenges.

Routine checkups can provide an opportunity to identify potential health issues and when needed develop care plans. In the Hospital's community, 78.8% of people report visiting their doctor for routine care.

<sup>6</sup> Health Insurance and Access to Care (cdc.gov)

**Providers Per Capita**





### Neighborhood and Built Environment

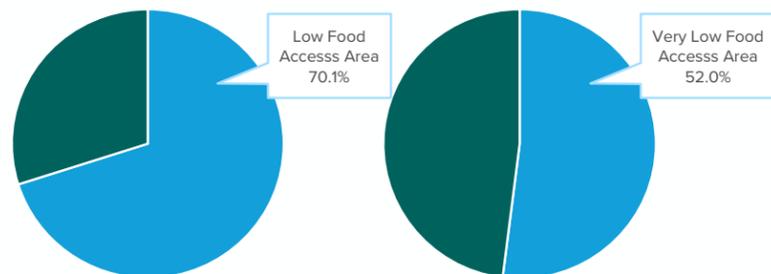
Increasingly, a community's neighborhoods and built environment are being shown to impact health outcomes. If a neighborhood is considered to have "low food access", which is defined as being more than 1/2 mile from your nearest supermarket in an urban area or 10 miles in a rural area, it may make it harder for people to have a healthy diet. A very low food access area is defined as being more than 1 mile from your nearest supermarket in an urban area or 20 miles in a rural area.

A person's diet can have a significant impact on health, so access to healthy food is important. For example, the largest contributors to cardiovascular disease are obesity and type 2 diabetes, both of which can be impacted by diet.<sup>7</sup> In the Hospital's community, 70.1% of the community lives in a low food access area, while 52% live in a very low food access area.

Access to public transportation is also an important part of a built environment. For people who do not have cars, reliable public transportation can be essential to access health care, healthy food and maintaining employment. In the community, 2.6% of the households do not have an available vehicle.

<sup>7</sup> A Neighborhood's Built Environment May Have Numerous Effects on Its Residents' Health - RWJF

### Food Access



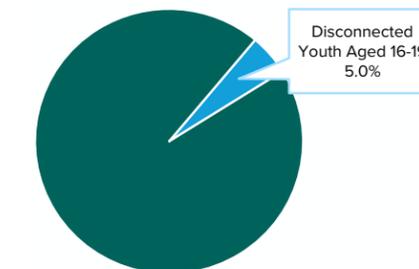
### Social and Community Context

People's relationships and interactions with family, friends, co-workers and community members can have a major impact on their health and well-being.<sup>8</sup> When faced with challenges outside of their control, positive relationships with others can help reduce negative impacts. People can connect through work, community clubs or others to build their own relationships and social supports. There can be challenges to building these relationships when people don't have connections to create them or there are barriers like language between groups.

In the community, 5% of youth aged 16-19 were reported as disconnected, which means they were neither enrolled in school nor working at the time. Also, in the community 17.7% of seniors (age 65 and older) report living alone and 2.7% of residents report having limited English proficiency. All these factors can create barriers to feeling connected in the community.

<sup>8</sup> Social and Community Context - Healthy People 2030 | health.gov

### Disconnected Youth





# Process, Methods and Findings

## ■ Process and Methods

### The Process

The health of people living in the same community can be very different because there are so many influencing factors. To understand and assess the most important health needs of its unique community and the people in it, input was solicited directly from the community and from individuals who represent the broad interests of the community. A real effort was made to reach out to all members of the community to obtain perspectives across age, race/ethnicity, gender, profession, household income, education level and geographic location. Publicly available data also was collected to inform the assessment process.

The Hospital partnered with local community organizations and stakeholders, including those in public health and those who represent the interests of medically underserved, low-income and minority community members, to form the Volusia/Flagler CHNA Collaborative to guide the assessment process. During data review sessions, community members of the Collaborative provided insight on how health conditions and areas of need were impacting those they represented. The Collaborative used the data review and discussion sessions to understand the most important health needs and barriers to health the community was facing and to guide the selection of needs to be addressed in the 2022 CHNA.

## Community Input

The Collaborative collected input directly from the community and from community stakeholders, individuals working in organizations addressing the needs and interests of the community. This was collected through a community survey, stakeholder interviews and focus groups.

### Community Health Survey

- Provided in both English and Spanish to anyone in the community and accessible through weblinks and QR codes.
- Links and QR codes were shared through targeted social media posts and with community partners including public health organizations. Partners were provided links to the survey, with the request that it be sent to listservs, electronic mailing lists they maintained and when possible shared on their own social media channels.
- Paper surveys were given to partners to place at their organizations with the goal of reaching those who might not have access otherwise and experience barriers to responding electronically. Responses from paper surveys were recorded using survey weblinks.

### Stakeholder Interviews

- Interviews were scheduled with 50 community stakeholders who were asked to provide input on health and barriers to health that they were seeing in the community.

### Focus Groups

- Focus groups were held with 14 small groups of community stakeholders to gain input on health and barriers to health in the community.
- A focus was on hearing from stakeholders who represent or serve communities that are underserved, underrepresented, lower income and/or who are more likely to be impacted by the social determinants of health.

## Public and Community Health Experts Consulted

A total of 61 stakeholders provided their expertise and knowledge regarding their community. This included all members of the Community Health Needs Assessment Committee.

Name	Organization	Services Provided	Populations Served
Nicole Sharbono, Senior Vice President Clinical Services	SMA Healthcare	Behavioral health programs	Focused on uninsured populations with special programs for individuals experiencing homelessness and individuals with disabilities
Dr. Barry Tishler, Founder and Executive Director	Addiction Education Foundation	Behavioral health education	Focused on serving populations with substance use disorder and disabilities
Beth Schmude, Executive Regional Director of Patient Financial Services/Revenue Integrity	AdventHealth	Health care	Serves as an advocate and organizer to create financial solutions for uninsured and underinsured patients to remain financially solvent after care
Lori Rankin, Nurse Practice Manager	AdventHealth	Health care	Vulnerable population, unemployed, minority, poverty in 32720 (DeLand), 32130 (DeLeon Springs), 32724 (DeLand) neighborhoods at risk with identified Health Priorities.
Katie Biancanello, Diabetes Educator	AdventHealth	Health care	Vulnerable residents, minority, poverty, uninsured, underinsured population throughout Volusia County
Tim Farley, Director of Ambulatory Services for the Cardiovascular Institute	AdventHealth Central Florida	Health care	Vulnerable residents, minority, poverty, uninsured, underinsured population throughout Volusia and Flagler
Debi McNabb, Community Benefit Director	AdventHealth Central Florida Division North Region	Health care	Social Vulnerability Index zip codes Volusia and Flagler
Ida Babazadeh, Community Health Program Manager	AdventHealth Central Florida Division North Region	Health care	Social Vulnerability Index zip codes Volusia and Flagler
David Weis, CEO	AdventHealth DeLand	Health care	Volusia County residents
Wally DeAquino, COO	AdventHealth Palm Coast	Health care	Flagler County residents
Kathy Gover, Chief Nursing Officer	AdventHealth Palm Coast	Health care	Flagler County residents
Leslie Giscombe, CEO & Founder	African American Entrepreneurs Association, Inc.	Community leader	Focused on special programs for communities of color

Name	Organization	Services Provided	Populations Served
Danyell Wilson-Howard, PhD, Associate Professor & Project Lead; Health Disparities Liaison	Bethune-Cookman University; Department of Health in Volusia County	Higher education, health Disparities/ health equity consultation	Area's HBCU (historically black colleges and universities) focused on communities of color and lower income student
Rasheeda Denning, Founder and President	Black Homeschoolers of Central Florida	Community leadership	Focused on special programs for communities of color
Robin King, CEO	CareerSource Flagler Volusia	Workforce programs	Implements special programs for youth, individuals with disabilities and the uninsured and unemployed
Pastor Daisy Henry, Pastor and former Bunnell city commissioner	Carver Center	Community leader	Focused on programs for communities of color in a very low income area.
Felicia Benzo, Founder and CEO	CATALYST Global Youth Initiatives, Inc.	Youth development	Focused on programs for communities of color and youth in very low income areas.
Chaleak Jones, Director	Chisholm Community Center in DeLand	Community programs	Focused on programs for communities of color in a very low income area, including Spring Hill.
Jacquelyn Lewis, Community Leader	Citizens Advisory Committee/ West Volusia Hospital Authority	Hospital taxing district leadership	Taxing District provides special healthcare programs for low income and uninsured residents.
Tina-Marie Schultz, City Commissioner	City of Bunnell	City leadership	Has special initiatives focused on low income neighborhoods that are predominantly home to communities of color.
Alvin Jackson, City Manager	City of Bunnell	City leadership	Has special initiatives focused on low income neighborhoods that are predominantly home to communities of color.
Maritza Avila-Vazquez, Vice Mayor	City of Deltona	City leadership	Has special initiatives focused on low income neighborhoods that are predominantly Hispanic/Latino
David Alfin, Mayor	City of Palm Coast	City leadership	Has special initiatives focused on affordable housing, health care workforce and low income residents.
Dona Butler, Director of Community Services	County of Volusia	County leadership, community programs	Provides programming for low and very low-income residents.

Name	Organization	Services Provided	Populations Served
Steve Bickel, Medical Director	Department of Health in Flagler County	Health care/public health	Provides medical care to low income and uninsured residents.
Bob Snyder, Health Officer	Department of Health in Flagler County	Health care/public health	Provides medical care to low income and uninsured residents.
Ethan Johnson, Assistant County Health Department Director	Department of Health in Volusia County	Health care/public health	Provides medical care to low income and uninsured residents and leads public health initiatives.
DJ Lebo, CEO	Early Learning Coalition of Flagler and Volusia	Early learning programs	Provides programming for low-income residents and children with disabilities.
Susan Moor, Vice President - Philanthropy	Easterseals Northeast Central Florida	Disability services	Provides programming for low-income residents and children with disabilities.
Trish Giaccone, CEO	Family Life Center	DV and sexual assault services	Flagler County residents, survivors of domestic violence and sexual assault
David Ayers, General Manager	Flagler Broadcasting	Communications	Hosts several radio shows focused on health and wellness.
Carrie Baird, CEO	Flagler Cares/ One Voice for Volusia	Coordination, community programs	Provides programs for low and very low-income residents and the uninsured.
Donald O'Brien, County Commissioner District 5	Flagler County	County leadership	Has special initiatives focused on low-income residents.
Andy Dance, Commissioner	Flagler County Board of County Commissioners	County leadership	Has special initiatives focused on low-income residents.
Teresa Rizzo, Executive Director	Flagler County Education Foundation	Education support and education	Has special initiatives focused on low-income students and students with disabilities
Terri Belletto, Executive Director	Flagler County Free Clinic	Health care for the uninsured	Provides healthcare services for the uninsured and disabled.
Cheryl Massaro, Board Member	Flagler County School Board	K-12 education, Equity Champion	Provides educational services for low-income students, students with disabilities and LGBTQIA students.
Shelley Ragsdale, President	Flagler NAACP	Community leader	Advocates for communities of color
Pam Birtolo, Executive Director	Flagler OARS	Substance Use peer support	Provides peer support services for individuals with substance use disorder
Brandy Williams, Coordinator of Counseling Services	Flagler Schools	Mental health supports	Provides programs for students with disabilities and behavioral health disorders

Name	Organization	Services Provided	Populations Served
John Fanelli Coordinator of Student Supports and Behavior	Flagler Schools	Mental health and behavioral supports	Provides programs for students with disabilities and behavioral health disorders
Sue Bickings, Chairperson	Flagler Sheltering Tree	Homeless programs	Provides programs for homeless and disabled individuals.
Mamie Oatis, Community Director	Food Brings Hope	Community programs	Provides programs for low-income families and individuals with disabilities. Serves very low-income neighborhoods.
Buck James, Executive Director	Halifax Urban Ministries	Homeless programs	Provides services for low-income families, homeless families and people with disabilities
Vicky Camper, Family Placement; Parent Partner	Healthy Start Coalition of Flagler and Volusia Counties	Care coordination and education for pregnant mother and families of young children	Provides services for pregnant women, low-income families and women with Medicaid or who are uninsured.
Bill Gilmer, Founder and Medical Director	Jesus Clinic	Health care for the uninsured	Provides healthcare services for the uninsured and disabled.
Mike Delahanty, Detective	New Smyrna Beach Police Department	Law enforcement	Has special initiatives focused on homeless individuals.
Kelli Marks, Vice Mayor of Orange City	Orange City Florida	City leadership	Has special initiatives focused on low-income neighborhoods.
Stephanie Mason-Teague, Executive Director	Ormond Memorial Art Museum and Gardens	Arts education	Provides art education programs to youth
Myra Middleton	Retired educator	Retired educator	Community advocate focused on youth with disabilities
Andrew Williams, Vice President of Flagler Services	SMA Healthcare	Behavioral health supports	Focused on uninsured populations with special programs for individuals experiencing homelessness and individuals with disabilities.
Jessica Robillard, Lead Organizer	The Dart Center - Fighting Against Injustice Toward Harmony	Advocacy	Advocacy group focused on homelessness and other social issues.
Maria Valdiva, Area Coordinator/Organizer	The Farmworkers Association Pierson	Community advocacy and leadership	Advocacy group focused on migrant workers and undocumented individuals
Amanda Lasecki, Vice President of Operations	United Way of Volusia-Flagler Counties	Grantmaker	Grant making organization focused on housing, health and education for vulnerable populations

Name	Organization	Services Provided	Populations Served
Courtney Edgcomb, President	United Way of Volusia-Flagler Counties	Grantmaker	Grant making organization focused on housing, health and education for vulnerable populations
Kelly Amy, Manager of Strategic Partnerships	Volusia County Schools	K-12 education	Provides education services for low-income students and students with disabilities.
Jeff White, Executive Director	Volusia/Flagler Coalition for the Homeless	Homeless programs	Provides services for low-income households, households with disabilities.
Kelvin Miller, General Manager	Votran	Transportation	Provides transportation services to low-income residents.
Brielle Goldberg, Executive Director	WaterSafe, Inc.	Water safety promotion and education	Provides water safety instruction to low-income families.
Jennifer Coen, Representative	West Volusia Hospital Authority	Hospital taxing district leadership	Taxing District provides special healthcare programs for low income and uninsured residents.
Georgia Turner, Executive Director	West Volusia Tourism Advertising Authority	Community leadership	Has initiatives focused on vulnerable populations.

## Secondary Data

To inform the assessment process, the Collaborative collected existing health related and demographic data about the community from publicly available sources. This included data on health conditions, social determinants of health and health behaviors.

The most current public data for the assessment was compiled and sourced from government and public health organizations, including:

- US Census Bureau
- The Surveillance, Epidemiology and End Results (SEER) Program database
- Health Equity Data Analysis (HEDA) system (University of Minnesota)
- County Health Rankings
- The State Health Department
- Other proprietary and internally developed database

## The Findings

There were 16 issues found in the assessment process that rose to the top for Flagler County. Needs that are SDOH related are group accordingly.

### Economic Stability



#### Housing:

- Access to affordable, quality housing.



#### Food Security:

- Access to nutritious, affordable food



#### Childcare:

- Quality, affordable childcare
- Childcare services for special needs children

### Health Care Access and Quality



#### Mental Health Care:

- Mental health outpatient services for children under age 18
- Suicide prevention initiatives targeting higher-risk adults, e.g., African Americans
- Improve mental health and substance use disorder transition care for inmates being released from jail
- Behavioral health initiatives to prevent suicide among targeted populations (e.g., youth)
- Mental health outpatient services for adults
- Recruiting mental health providers



#### Substance Use:

- Substance use disorder treatment programs



#### System Infrastructure:

- Systems to improve the ability of schools, the justice system, health care providers and public health departments to safely share information



#### Health Care Access:

- Telehealth capacity for mental health and primary care
- Outpatient medical and mental health care services for children with special needs
- Initiatives to improve community awareness of available health care resources
- Additional services to address cancer, heart disease and diabetes



# PRIORITIES SELECTION

## ■ Prioritization Process

The Collaborative through data review and discussion, narrowed down the needs of the community to a list of three priorities. Community partners on the Collaborative represented the broad range of interests and needs, from public health to the economic, of underserved, low-income and minority people in the community. In the Spring of 2022, the Collaborative met three times to review and discuss the collected data and select the top community needs.

### Members of the Volusia/Flagler CHNA Collaborative included:

#### Community Partners

- David Alfin, Mayor, City of Palm Coast, leader of city government.
- David Ayers, General Manager, Flagler Broadcasting, radio hosts several public health radio shows.
- Carrie Baird, CEO, Flagler Cares/One Voice for Volusia, community impact organizations that facilitate public health projects.
- Pam Birtolo, Executive Director, Flagler OARS, recovery community organization.
- Andy Dance, Commissioner, Flagler County Board of County Commissioners, leader of county government.
- Amanda Lasecki, Vice President of Operations, United Way of Volusia-Flagler Counties, part of leadership team at a local grantmaking organization.
- Courtney Edgcomb, President, United Way of Volusia-Flagler Counties, a leader at a local grantmaking organization.
- John Fanelli, Coordinator of Student Supports and Services, Flagler Schools, responsible for student discipline and liaison with the Department of Juvenile Justice.

- Brandy Williams, Coordinator of Counseling Services, Flagler Schools, leads the school behavioral health team.
- Andrew Williams, Vice President of Flagler Services, SMA Healthcare, Flagler leader of largest public behavioral health provider in Flagler County.
- Alvin Jackson, City Manager, City of Bunnell, leader of city government.
- Cheryl Massaro, Board Member, Flagler County School Board, leader of the county school board.
- Myra Middleton, Retired educator, community leader and activist.
- Shelley Ragsdale, President, Flagler NAACP, the leadership of local community advocacy organization.
- Kathy Gover, Chief Nursing Officers, AdventHealth Palm Coast, leadership of AdventHealth Palm Coast.
- Nicole Sharbono, Senior Vice President Clinical Services, SMA Healthcare, part of leadership of largest public behavioral health provider in Flagler County.



### Community Members (continued)

- Robin King, CEO, CareerSource Flagler Volusia, leader of workforce development board.
- DJ Lebo, CEO, Early Learning Coalition of Flagler and Volusia, leader of early childhood agency responsible for volunteer pre-K and subsidized childcare programs.
- Mamie Oatis, Community Director, Food Brings Hope, is part of the leadership of the community-based organization and community activist.
- Jeff White, Executive Director, Volusia/Flagler Coalition for the Homeless, leader of the continuum of care for homeless services in the region.
- Kelvin Miller, General Manager, Votran, leader of the county transportation system.
- Mike Delahanty, Detective, New Smyrna Beach Police Department and law enforcement are involved in homeless services.
- Kelly Amy, Manager of Strategic Partnerships, Volusia County Schools, representative of Volusia County School district.
- Dona Butler, Director of Community Services, County of Volusia, leader of county-operated health and social service programs.

### AdventHealth Team Members

- Wally DeAquino, COO, AdventHealth Palm Coast
- Debi McNabb, Community Benefit Director, AdventHealth Central Florida Division North
- Ida Babazadeh, Community Health Program Manager, AdventHealth Central Florida Division North
- David Weis, CEO, AdventHealth DeLand

### Public Health Experts

- Steve Bickel, Medical Director, Department of Health in Flagler County, leading HIV clinic.
- Bob Snyder, Health Officer, Department of Health in Flagler County, leader of county public health organization.
- Ethan Johnson, Assistant County Health Department Director, Department of Health in Volusia County, part of the leadership at Volusia County public health organization.
- Danyell Wilson-Howard, Ph.D., Associate Professor & Project Lead; Health Disparities Liaison, Bethune-Cookman University; Department of Health in Volusia County, professor and public health expert working on health equity projects.

During these discussions, the decision was made to group multiple needs together, so similar or related needs could be addressed under one priority. After the Collaborative grouped the related needs, it decided to address everything that had been found under three county level priorities.



The Collaborative participated in a prioritization process based on the Delphi method that consisted of two rounds of online surveying and three facilitated discussion sessions. The needs were then evaluated with the AdventHealth priority criteria, which considered four factors:

- **A. Alignment:** Does this issue align with public health or community goals?
- **B. Impact on Community:** What is the scope, size and seriousness of this issue? What are the consequences to the health of the community of not addressing this issue now?
- **C. Resources:** Are there existing effective interventions and opportunities to partner with the community to address this issue?
- **D. Outcome Opportunities:** Can an impact on this issue be made in a demonstrable way and will interventions have an impact on other health and social issues in the community?

The Collaborative then grouped all the needs identified in the assessment under one of the following priorities:

### Access to Behavioral Health Services

Behavioral health for the Collaborative's priorities includes addressing both mental health and substance use disorder related needs. The access barriers faced by youth, adults and seniors are unique and require specific actions to address these issues equitably. This priority includes the needs identified around:

- Mental health
- Substance use disorder
- Access for particular populations including children, adults and seniors



### Economic and Social Barriers

The Collaborative will address the housing, income and education related needs under this priority. Economic and social barriers have a profound impact on health and wellness. Equitable access to affordable quality housing, quality childcare and stable income are critical components. These barriers are sometimes more challenging for people with special needs. This priority includes the needs identified around:

- Affordable quality housing
- Income supports
- Affordable quality childcare
- Health insurance

### System Infrastructure

The systems created to support health and stability often include inadvertent barriers that prevent people in need from equitably accessing needed services and supports. Systems need the ability to safely share information with one another and raise community awareness of local resources. This priority includes the needs identified around:

- Awareness of resources
- Ability to access services
- Ability to safely share information across sectors
- Systemic barriers to health insurance

The Hospital Health Needs Assessment Committee (HHNAC) met to review the priorities selected by the Collaborative and to identify the needs the Hospital would select. The HHNAC reviewed the data behind the Collaborative's priorities and the local available resources to address them in the community. The HHNAC also considered the Hospitals current resources and strategies to find ways to most effectively address the needs.

### Members of the HHNAC included:

- Wally De Aquino, COO, AdventHealth Palm Coast
- Mary Radcliff, ED Director, AdventHealth Palm Coast
- Kathy Gover, CNO, AdventHealth Palm Coast
- Edilson Goncalves, Senior Chaplain, AdventHealth Palm Coast
- Davis (Aaron) Haskin, Care Counselor, Central Florida Division Population Health
- Deborah McNabb, Community Benefit Director, Central Florida Division North Region
- Ida Babazadeh, Community Health Program Manager, Central Florida Division North Region

The HHNAC used the established AdventHealth criteria to evaluate the needs and data behind them to select their priorities. The HHNAC did not use the same grouping as the CHNAC when evaluating the needs. The Hospital is focused on the following three priorities and will not directly address needs related to mental health, housing and income, which are included in the Collaborative's priorities.

### Behavioral Health: Drug and Substance Use

Substance use disorders can involve illicit drugs, prescription drugs or alcohol. Opioid use disorders, which stem from the improper use of prescription drugs, have become especially problematic in recent years. Substance use disorders are linked to many health problems, and overdoses can lead to emergency department visits and deaths.

### Early Childhood Education

Early childhood education describes the period of learning that takes place from birth to 8 years old. There are several types of early education programs, including those that are federal, state or privately funded. Early childhood, particularly the first 5 years of

life, impacts long-term social, cognitive, emotional and physical development. Healthy development in early childhood helps prepare children for the educational experiences of kindergarten and beyond.

### Community Engagement in Available Resources and Services

Community engagement is the process of working collaboratively with and through groups of people affiliated by geographic proximity, special interest or similar situations to address issues affecting the wellbeing of those people. Community engagement can also bring environmental and behavioral changes that will improve the health of the community and its members. This is achieved through partnerships that help mobilize resources and influence systems.



## Available Community Resources

As part of the assessment process, a list of resources or organizations addressing the top needs in the community was created. Although not a complete list, it helped to show where there were gaps in support and opportunities for partnership in the community when the HHNAC chose which priorities to address.

Top Issues	Current Community Programs	Current Hospital Programs
<b>Behavioral Health Services</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Adult Mental Health</li> <li>Adult Substance</li> <li>Issues specific to older adults (ages 75+)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Alcoholics Anonymous Meeting Locations</li> <li>Break the Cycle Outpatient Program</li> <li>ERs treat those wanting to hurt themselves or someone else</li> <li>Faith based counseling centers and private counseling opportunities</li> <li>Family Life Center</li> <li>Flagler Cares</li> <li>Flagler County Sheriff</li> <li>Flagler County Village (hosted by Flagler Cares)</li> <li>Flagler Humane Society</li> <li>Flagler Open Arms Recovery Services (OARS)</li> <li>Halifax Health</li> <li>Halifax Humane Society</li> <li>Healthy Start Coalition of Flagler &amp; Volusia Counties, Inc.: Substance Exposed Newborns Task Force and Family Place and Healthy Families</li> <li>Heroes' Mile – addiction recovery for veterans by veterans (out of county)</li> <li>Lutheran Services of Florida (LSF)</li> <li>National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Narcotics Anonymous Meeting Locations (almost 100 in the area: <a href="http://www.na.org/MeetingSearch/">http://www.na.org/MeetingSearch/</a>)</li> <li>Salvation Army</li> <li>Crisis Triage and Treatment Unit (CTTU); Adult Outpatient Substance Abuse Program (AOP) and Mental Health Counseling; Medication Assisted Treatment (out of county); Psychiatric Medication Outpatient Program; Florida Assertive Community Treatment (FACT) Program; Forensic Case Management; Family Intervention Services (FIS); Family Intensive Treatment Team (FITT); Community/Court Liaison (Outreach) Services; Enrichment Program Industries for persons with developmental disabilities or co-occurring disorders (out of county); Chet Bell 24-hour Crisis Stabilization and Detox Services and Screenings (out of county); Reality House, Re-Entry and Work Release Programs (out of county); Residential substance use treatment for adults and adolescents; Family Education Programs, Speakers Bureau and Mental Health 1st Aid; SMA walk-in is great resource kind of like urgent care for BH; Primary Care (out of county); Mobile Response Team; SMA Access Center</li> <li>Team Red White and Blue</li> <li>The Chiles Academy</li> <li>Volusia Sheriff's Office</li> <li>Volusia-Flagler Behavioral Health Consortium   Volusia/Flagler Substance Use Disorder Committee</li> </ul>

Top Issues	Current Community Programs	Current Hospital Programs
<b>Behavioral Health Services</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Youth Mental Health</li> <li>Youth Substance Use</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Adapt Behavioral Services</li> <li>AMIkids Behavioral Health, Inc. (Associated Marine Institutes)</li> <li>Café Dialogues and Healthy Start Initiatives</li> <li>Children's Home Society</li> <li>Circle of Friends</li> <li>Circuit 7 System of Care</li> <li>Circuit 7 Early Childhood Court Team</li> <li>Community Partnership for Children/Community Based Care</li> <li>Devereux Behavioral Health</li> <li>E.S.P. Case Management Professionals, Inc. (Empowerment Service Providers)</li> <li>Flagler County Schools</li> <li>Grief Related: GriefShare, Begin Again, Hospice, Tears Foundation, Hospital Support Groups (<a href="http://www.volusia.com/local-support-groups/">http://www.volusia.com/local-support-groups/</a>)</li> <li>Guardian ad litem</li> <li>Halifax Behavior Services (HBS)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Partnership with Flagler County Schools to provide the Mental Health First Aid program</li> <li>Referral program with Impower and Flagler County Schools</li> <li>Mission Fit at Rymfire Elementary School in Palm Coast</li> <li>Healthy Start Coalition of Flagler &amp; Volusia Counties, Inc.: Substance Exposed Newborns Task Force and Family Place and Healthy Families</li> <li>Help Me Grow/211 screening tools and referrals</li> <li>PACE Center for Girls, Inc.</li> <li>Pediatricians</li> <li>Presbyterian Counseling Center</li> <li>Prevention: Boys &amp; Girls Clubs, Mentoring Programs, Youth Sports Leagues/Programs, Police Athletics/Activities League (PAL), After School Programs, Arts programs, Recreation Departments, Clubs, Youth Groups, Girls on the Run (GOTR)</li> <li>School Health Advisory Committee (SHAC)</li> <li>SMA Healthcare: Children/Families In Need of Services (CINS/FINS); BEACH House; Residential Adolescent Program (RAP) and Adolescent Outpatient Program (ADOP)</li> <li>The House Next Door</li> </ul>

Top Issues	Current Community Programs	Current Hospital Programs
<b>Economic and Social Barriers – access to health care services, social and economic issues</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>ACCESS (Medicaid, Requests for Assistance) sites</li> <li>African American Entrepreneurs Association (AAEA)</li> <li>Boys &amp; Girls Clubs of Volusia/Flagler Counties</li> <li>CareerSource Flagler Volusia</li> <li>Department of Children &amp; Families</li> <li>Easterseals</li> <li>FBH Community Inc. (Food Brings Hope)</li> <li>Family Health Source</li> <li>Flagler Cares</li> <li>Flagler County Free Clinic</li> <li>Florida Breast and Cervical Cancer Prevention/Early Detection Program</li> <li>Florida Department of Health in Flagler County</li> <li>Flagler County Habitat for Humanity</li> <li>Halifax Health and other partners providing Healthcare to the homeless</li> <li>Halifax Health Community Clinics</li> <li>Halifax Urban Ministries – multiple locations, school and community partners: Hope Place and Bridge of Hope</li> <li>Health Equity Zones – collaborative community partner efforts</li> <li>Health Navigators to help with insurance coverage access</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Multiple hospices for palliative care</li> <li>One Voice for Volusia/Flagler Cares</li> <li>Our Two Stories, Inc. DBA Backpack Buddies</li> <li>Project WARM (Women Assisting Recovering Mothers)</li> <li>Salvation Army</li> <li>Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) (food stamps);</li> <li>Sports leagues</li> <li>The Early Learning Coalition of Flagler and Volusia Counties, Inc.</li> <li>The House Next Door</li> <li>United Way of Volusia-Flagler Counties – Multiple programs and services: Grants to community organizations; Community Impact; ALICE Report (Asset Limited, Income Constrained, Employed); Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA); 211; Food services; Housing; Financial Assistance and Legal Services</li> <li>Volusia-Flagler County Coalition for the Homeless</li> <li>Walk in Clinics for quick care – AdventHealth Centra Care sites, Urgent Care</li> <li>WaterSafe Inc.</li> <li>YMCA Programs - Health and Wellness that includes Diabetes Prevention Program and Nutrition programs</li> </ul>

Top Issues	Current Community Programs	Current Hospital Programs
<b>System Infrastructure</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Action for Healthy Kids</li> <li>Alliance for Healthier Generation</li> <li>County and City Recreation Departments: more than 50 miles of multi-use trails and Mayor's Fitness Challenges</li> <li>EPIC Behavioral Healthcare</li> <li>Flagler Cares</li> <li>Flagler County Free Clinic</li> <li>Flagler County Schools</li> <li>Local churches</li> <li>Local colleges</li> <li>Local hospitals</li> <li>Local schools</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>LINC Flagler Volusia system</li> <li>Northeast Florida AHEC (Diabetes and Smoking Cessation)</li> <li>One Voice for Volusia/Flagler Cares: The Community Connector</li> <li>Popularity and ease of use of fitness and health tracking "apps"</li> <li>Seminars and education programs offered by the hospitals and health departments (i.e. 5210)</li> <li>School Health Advisory Committee (SHAC)</li> <li>Whole Health Hub (Find Help)</li> <li>Worksite Wellness</li> </ul>



## Priorities Addressed

### Behavioral Health: Drug and Substance Use

Fentanyl deaths in Flagler County increased nearly eightfold from 2013 to 2019 and opioid-related deaths doubled from 2019 to 2020 despite decreasing statewide. Awareness of and the need to address substance misuse, as well as a growing fentanyl crisis, has been increasing in the country. By addressing alcohol and drug use as a priority, the Hospital can align to local, state and national efforts for resources to create better outcomes opportunities over the next three years.

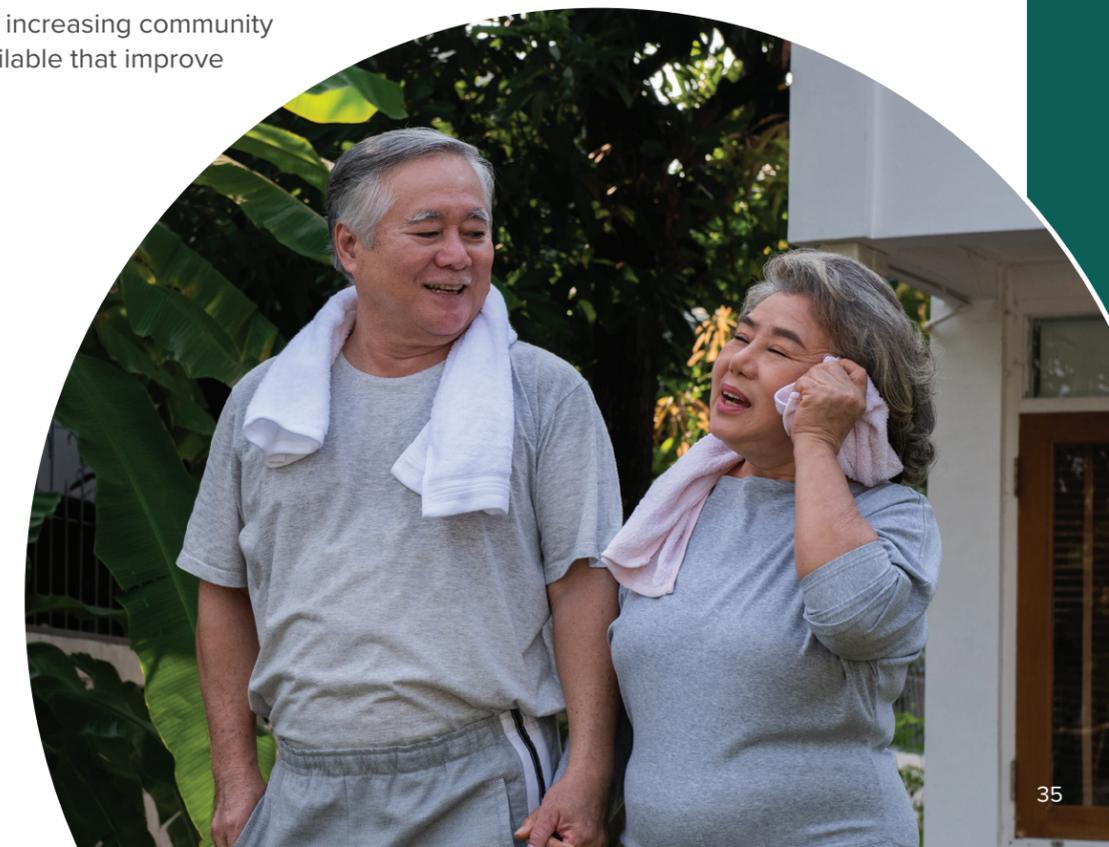
### Early Childhood Education

The assessment showed that the percentage of youth ready for kindergarten at entry has increased in Flagler County, although it is still lower than that of the state. According to public data, only 41.6% of toddlers in the community are enrolled in preschool, which helps prepare youth for kindergarten and beyond. The Hospital prioritized early childhood education because of the foundation it provides for better health and long-term outcomes for all residents.

### Community Engagement on Available Resources and Services

Data in the assessment highlighted how complicated the health care system can be to understand and navigate, even for those who work within the industry. Many stakeholders discussed how disconnected different parts of the health care system are, leading to a lack of care coordination between different providers and a low awareness in the community of what services and resources are available. Word-of-mouth tends to be the best method to share information, especially in priority populations.

The Hospital hopes to improve the health of the community, by increasing community engagement and awareness of the resources and services available that improve health and connecting residents to them.



## Priorities Not Addressed



### Mental Health

There is a growing need in Flagler County to increase the available resources addressing mental health needs. The assessment found the percentage of adults reporting poor mental health is slowly increasing statewide, as well as in Flagler County. Flagler County also lags behind the statewide average for both mental health providers and adult psychiatric beds.

The mental health needs of the community are significant, but the HHNAC did not perceive the ability to impact the issue with existing Hospital resources at this time.



### Housing and Income

The need for safe and affordable housing and increased wages in the community is significant. More than one-third of homeowners (about 34%) and over half of renters (about 55%) are paying over 30% of their income towards housing. The median price of homes also increased 18.8% from November 2020 to November 2021. The assessment also found that Black residents are twice as likely to be living below the federal poverty level as their White counterparts, and the poverty rates for those of Other Race and Hispanic are also notably higher than White and Non-Hispanic residents.

The HHNAC did not perceive the ability to have a measurable impact on these issues within the three years allotted for the for the Community Health Plan with the current resources available to the Hospital at this time.





# COMMUNITY HEALTH PLAN

## Next Steps

The Hospital will work with the Collaborative and other community partners to develop a measurable Community Health Plan for 2023-2025 to address the priority issues. For each priority, specific goals will be developed including measurable outcomes, intervention strategies and the resources necessary for successful implementation.

Evidence based strategies will be reviewed to determine the most impactful and effective interventions. For each goal, a review of policies that can support or deter progress will be completed with consideration of opportunities to make an impact. The plan will be reviewed quarterly with an annual assessment of progress. A presentation of progress on the plan will also be presented to the Hospital board annually.

A link to the Community Health Plan will be posted on [AdventHealth.com](https://www.adventhealth.com) prior to May 15, 2023.



## 2020 Community Health Plan Review

The Hospital evaluates the progress made on the implementation strategies from the Community Health Plan annually. The following is a summary of progress made on our most recently adopted plan. The full evaluation is available upon request.

### Priority 1: Adult Behavioral Health

In the 2019 CHNA, the Hospital addressed adult behavioral health as a priority. Because substance abuse and mental health can be closely linked, the Hospital also included mental health strategies as a way to address substance use. During the assessment, data showed Flagler County had higher rates of alcohol-suspected motor vehicle crashes than the state. It was also found that deaths in Flagler County due to opioid overdoses had increased as had opioid usage among individuals seeking treatment for addiction. Flagler County also had the highest rate of suicide in the state of Florida.

Since adopting the plan, the Hospital provided Flagler Cares, a local nonprofit, \$25,000 in financial support for a new one-stop service location called the Flagler County Village. The new access point opened in November 2021 and houses staff from 4 organizations providing social, health, educational, financial and behavioral health services. The Hospital has also partnered with Flagler Cares in a pilot project to connect health and behavioral health systems through a referral network. By the end of 2021, fourteen local organizations were participating in the network and more than 889 referrals had been made.

### Priority 2: Youth Behavioral Health

Youth behavioral health was also selected as a priority. Because substance abuse and mental health can be closely linked, the Hospital also included mental health strategies as a way to address substance use. During the assessment, data showed there was an increase in the usage of marijuana by Flagler County middle and high school students though 2018. While the use of vaporizers/e-cigarettes among Flagler County middle and high school students has also increased. The suicide rate in Flagler County among those 12-18 is higher than that of state. Flagler County also has a higher out of school suspension rate among those K-12 than in the rest of the state and it has been increasing since 2014.

As part of the effort to address the priority the Hospital partnered with Flagler County schools and community stakeholders to increase youth access to psychiatric services. To support this, the Hospital established a five-year partnership with the schools and IMPOWER, a leading non-profit which provides telehealth services. Through this work the Hospital has established a referral pipeline from local schools to provide easily accessible mental health services for students, as well as an annual fund to cover care for those in need for whom cost would be prohibitive.

### Priority 3: Cardiovascular Diseases and Diabetes

Cardiovascular diseases and diabetes were also a priority. Flagler County was found to have higher death rates for congestive heart failure and stroke than the state during the assessment. The percentage of adults with diabetes was also higher in Flagler County than in the state. More than 70% of Flagler middle and high school students were found to lack vigorous exercise and 47% of the adults in the county were found to be inactive or sufficiently inactive. Exercise and lifestyle choices can play a role in both cardiovascular disease and diabetes.

The Hospital has focused on the impact of education and lifestyle as an avenue to addressing these conditions in the community. In 2021, the Hospital provided screenings, education on healthy eating and chronic disease prevention to more than 240 people. The Hospital has also launched a wellness program designed specifically for children and teens, which empowers them to be healthier through understanding their choices, through which almost 200 youth have been served.

### Priority 4: Mothers and Children Under Age 5

The Hospital chose mothers and children under five as a priority. The 2019 assessment showed that in Flagler County births to mothers 15-19 was higher than the state rate. Black women in Flagler County were also found to have higher rates of low birth weight and very low birth weight babies than that of the state. The rate of births to women with no prenatal care has also been rising in the county. Children were a priority focus as the assessment found that the rate of children in Flagler County who were kindergarten ready was lower than the state. The percent of children who were fully immunized in the county has also decreased over time and is lower than in the state of Florida.

The Hospital has focused on providing free prenatal and obstetrics education classes to address this priority. Due to COVID-19, the classes were transitioned to a virtual format and have served more than 500 individuals in Volusia and Flagler Counties.

### Priority 5: Family Violence

Family violence was chosen as a priority due to increasing rates of abuse and sexual violence against children ages 5-11 in Flagler County, both rates are higher than the state's. The number of Flagler County infants, children ages 1-5 and children ages 12-17 in foster care has also been increasing since 2012. To address this priority the Hospital has partnered with Family Life Center to provide annual trainings to staff members. Trainings are designed to increase understanding in and the ability of the Hospital's staff to identify the signs of domestic violence and sexual assault and to provide them with information about local resources available.



## ■ 2019 Community Health Needs Assessment Comments

We posted a link to the most recently conducted CHNA and most recently adopted implementation strategy on our Hospital website as well as AdventHealth.com prior to May 15, 2020 and have not received any written comments.





**Memorial Hospital - Flagler, Inc.  
AdventHealth AdventHealth Palm Coast**

CHNA Approved by the Hospital Board on: September 22, 2022

For questions or comments please contact:  
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