

COMMUNITY HIGHLIGHTS



HOUSING & TRANSIT

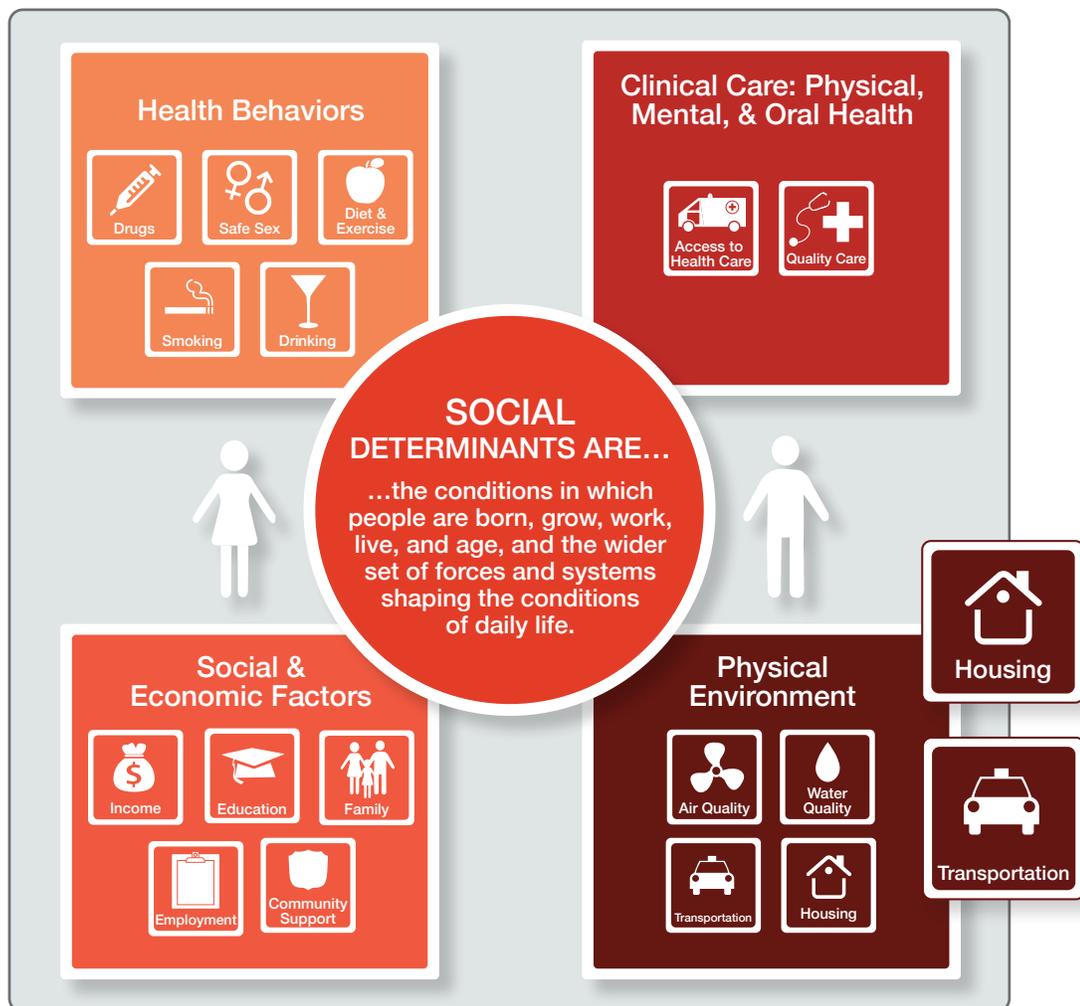


Foundation for a
Healthy St. Petersburg

healthystpete.foundation
727.865.4650

The Foundation for a Healthy St. Petersburg is a new, private health foundation serving South Pinellas County. The Foundation aims to improve the local community’s health through initiatives that create sustainable, effective improvements to quality of life. The Foundation’s commitment is to be accountable and transparent. The Foundation is focused on social factors, which directly impact health outcomes, such as housing, income, education, transit, and many others as listed in the Social Determinants of Health Framework below.

SOCIAL DETERMINANTS OF HEALTH FRAMEWORK*



* Framework Adapted from the University of Wisconsin Population Health Institute Model

PHYSICAL ENVIRONMENT

Housing

According to the United States Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD), there are four categories of homelessness:

- (1) Individuals and families who lack a fixed, regular, and adequate nighttime residence and includes a subset for an individual who is exiting an institution where he or she resided for 90 days or less and who resided in an emergency shelter or a place not meant for human habitation immediately before entering that institution;
- (2) Individuals and families who will imminently lose their primary nighttime residence;
- (3) Unaccompanied youth and families with children and youth who are defined as homeless under other federal statutes who do not otherwise qualify as homeless under this definition; or
- (4) Individuals and families who are fleeing, or are attempting to flee, domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, stalking, or other dangerous or life-threatening conditions that relate to violence against the individual or a family member.

A Point-in-Time (PIT) count of homeless individuals aims to obtain an accurate as possible estimate of the number of homeless individuals in the community on a given night. According to the 2014 Pinellas County Point-In-Time Housing Survey, Pinellas County counted 5,887 people as homeless, 2,526 (42.9%) were children.

Adults	3,222
Children	2,526
Missing/No Response/Refused	139
Total	5,887

Table 1: Total Homeless Count Pinellas County

The 2014 Pinellas County Point-In-Time Housing Survey, described two categories of homeless individuals and families: sheltered and unsheltered. Unsheltered homeless are those who are on the street. The 2014 survey found that there were 1178 unsheltered homeless, 29 of which were children. Sheltered homeless are those who live in safe havens, emergency shelters, transitional housing programs, hotels or motels paid for by charitable organizations, as well as those doubled up living with friends or family if they were to be evicted in the next 14 days and did not have resources to obtain a new place. The 2014 PIT survey found that there were 4,709 sheltered homeless, 53% of which were children. Housing instability is

also of concern in Pinellas County. Aspects related to housing stability include affordability, accessibility, adequacy, and availability. Affordability of housing relates to the percentage of income one spends on housing. “Cost-burdened” households are those who pay more than 30% of their income on housing. “Severely cost-burdened” households are those who pay more than 50% of their income on housing. Accessibility relates to whether individuals with special needs, such as disabilities (mental, physical, developmental, persons with HIV/AIDS), persons with addictions, victims of domestic violence, or the frail and elderly have access to housing. Adequacy relates to the condition of housing including the age of the unit, the presence of environmentally hazardous materials such as lead-based paint and asbestos, and whether the unit has adequate plumbing and kitchen facilities. Availability of housing relates to the amount of stock available.

The Robert Wood Johnson Foundation’s County Health Rankings indicates that almost 80,000 households in Pinellas have severe housing problems. This is defined as the percentage of households with at least 1 or more of the following housing problems:

1. Housing unit lacks complete kitchen facilities;
2. Housing unit lacks complete plumbing facilities;
3. Household is severely overcrowded (more than 1.5 persons per room); and
4. Household is severely cost burdened (monthly housing costs-including utilities- that exceed 50% of monthly income).

According to the Florida Housing Data Clearinghouse, in 2013 forty-two percent (42%) or 178,702 Pinellas County households were cost-burdened, and 20%, or 85,249, were severely cost-burdened. A snapshot of burdened areas can be seen in Table 2.

Jurisdiction	Housing Cost Burden	Household Count
Kenneth City	30.1-50%	330
Kenneth City	more than 50%	404
St. Petersburg	30.1-50%	26180
St. Petersburg	more than 50%	23782
Unincorporated Area	30.1-50%	24642
Unincorporated Area	more than 50%	22401

Table 2: 2013 Housing Burden

According to the National Low Income Housing Coalition, an individual working at minimum wage of (\$8.05 an hour in Florida) would have to work 77 hours a week to afford a modest 1-bedroom apartment at fair market rent.

In Pinellas County, with a minimum wage of \$8.05, affordable rent is \$419 a month, and a zero-bedroom is \$610 a month. This disparity leaves the county's low income residence in a difficult position. Tables 3 and 4 depict the Fair Market Rents and Annual Incomes needed to afford rent in Pinellas and Florida.

Fair Market Rent	Florida	Pinellas
Zero-Bedroom	\$677	\$610
One-Bedroom	\$811	\$765
Two-Bedroom	\$1,012	\$959
Three-Bedroom	\$1,374	\$1,280
Four-Bedroom	\$1,639	\$1533

Table 3: Fair Market Rent State/County Comparison

Annual Income Needed to Afford	Florida	Pinellas
Zero-Bedroom	\$27,077	\$24,400
One-Bedroom	\$32,441	\$30,600
Two-Bedroom	\$40,488	\$38,360
Three-Bedroom	\$54,964	\$51,200
Four-Bedroom	\$65,556	\$61,320

Table 4: Annual Income Needed to Afford Housing State/County Comparison

The Foundation created a map to highlight areas of housing instability within its impact area: <http://www.datadesignnetwork.com/healthy-st-pete/>.

Housing is more than a physical structure designed to keep its occupants warm, safe, dry, and free from disease. People's homes are meaningful places, intimately connected to their sense of security, confidence, self-esteem, and overall social and emotional well-being. Quality of shelter is compromised by overcrowding, inadequate sanitation facilities, presence of fire and safety hazards, and poor ventilation. Inadequate housing or absence of housing can impact both physical and mental health.

Transit/Transportation

The majority of workers in Pinellas County (92.3%) commute to work in a car, truck, or van. However, almost 5% of workers relied on public transportation or other means (walking, biking, or taxi) to get to work. Workers who worked from home comprised 4.8%.

Mode of Transportation	Florida	Pinellas County
Car, truck, van	90.3%	92.3%
Public transportation	1.2%	0.4%
Worked at home	4.7%	4.8%
Other means (walk, bicycle, taxi)	3.8%	3.5%

Table 5: Mode of Transportation to Work

According to the Update on the Economic Impact of Poverty Report, individuals that have transportation that is unavailable, inaccessible, or unreliable face significant hurdles in accessing care. Households without reliable transportation also have problems accessing food and other services not located within walking distance. Because affordable housing is increasingly located far from main transportation lines and jobs, low income individuals are more likely to have long commutes to work. This further reduces their time for exercising, shopping for fresh foods, and additional earning opportunities, thus exacerbating the impact of poverty.

The Foundation conducted listening sessions in which we talked with over 200 St. Petersburg residents and 70 St. Petersburg social service organizations about the health and well-being of our community. In the listening sessions, local residents recognized transportation barriers and repeatedly spoke about this issue. Please click the link below to read summaries of the Foundation’s listening sessions: <http://www.healthystpete.foundation/what-we-do/listening-sessions>.

Inadequate housing or absence of housing has serious negative implications for population health. Inadequate housing can lead to both poor physical health (such as houses with high levels of mold or lead) and mental health (lack of adequate housing increases stress and limits important family and social support resources). Without a place to gain safe rest, it is difficult to access all of the elements needed to be healthy.

Similarly, lack of transportation creates barriers to accessing healthcare, health foods, education, employment, and other resources.

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*Please Note: This series of *Community Highlights* is intended to illustrate the Foundation's definitions of the Social Determinants of Health framework and to provide specific data related to the Foundation's geographic focus area. The data presented is not comprehensive.