



PINELLAS HIGHLIGHTS

ACCESS TO AND UTILIZATION OF CARE



Foundation for a
Healthy St. Petersburg

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**Foundation for a
Healthy St. Petersburg**

ACCESS TO HEALTH CARE

Access to affordable, quality health care is important to physical, social, and mental health, and to overall population health. Health insurance coverage helps individuals and families access needed care but does not ensure access on its own. Other social determinants which impact access are: transportation, provider proximity and availability, education, employment, income, and social support.

Access to and Utilization of Care

Access to health care refers to an individual's or population's ability to receive needed health services. It is important to measure and improve access to care because health disparities in access are often directly linked to disparities in health outcomes. Access may include health education, preventative care, and treatment. Measures often include: percentage of the population with or without health insurance, percentage of the population that could or could not get medical care when they needed it, ratio of the population to health care providers, and health disparities between racial and ethnic groupsⁱ. Table 1^{ii iii} shows some access to care indicators by race/ethnicity in Pinellas County.

ACCESS TO CARE BY RACE/ETHNICITY PINELLAS COUNTY - 2017							
		PINELLAS COUNTY RATES			STATE RATES		
ACCESS TO CARE INDICATORS	YEAR(S)	BLACK	HISPANIC	WHITE	BLACK	HISPANIC	WHITE
Adults who have a personal doctor	2016	77.4%	53.1%	77.4%	70.9%	57.7%	78.6%
Adults who said their overall health was excellent	2016	74.9%	76%	80%	81.3%	74.8%	82.3%
Adults who had a medical checkup in the past year	2016	83.4%	82.3%	74.7%	80.4%	71.9%	77.7%
Adults who visited a dentist or a dental clinic in the past year	2016	48.4%	57.9%	64.7%	57.5%	58.7%	65.9%
Adults who received a flu shot in the past year	2016	40.3%	39.3%	41.7%	26.3%	27.6%	39.8%
Adults who have ever received a pneumonia vaccination	2016	29.5%	21.9%	38.6%	25.7%	24.9%	40.6%
Adults with Health Insurance Coverage	2012-2016	82.8%	75.2%	86.9%	80.4%	74.7%	84.8%

Table 1: Access to Care by Race/Ethnicity

Having health insurance is a major factor in obtaining health care services. People without insurance coverage have worse access to care than people who are insured. One in five uninsured adults in 2016 went without needed medical care due to cost.^{iv} Studies repeatedly demonstrate that the uninsured are less likely than those with insurance to receive preventive care and services for major health conditions and chronic diseases.

According to a Gallup Poll study,^v the percentage of U.S. adults without health insurance was essentially unchanged in the fourth quarter of 2017, at 12.2%, but it increased 1.3 percentage points from the record low of 10.9% found in the last quarter of 2016. That 1.3 point increase represents an estimated 3.2 million Americans who entered the ranks of the uninsured in 2017.

CLINICAL CARE

Access to care and health care insurance coverage are of concern in Pinellas County and are further illustrated by the following statistics:

- According to the 2018 Robert Wood Johnson County Health Rankings for Pinellas, 14% of the county is uninsured, as opposed to 18% uninsured in 2017.^{vi}
- According to the 2016 Florida Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System and Florida CHARTS ^{vii viii}
 - 76.4% of adults in Pinellas had a medical checkup in the past year (at the time of the survey)
 - 35.8% of Pinellas County adults indicated they had ever received a vaccination for pneumonia
 - 40.7% of adults in Pinellas County said they received a flu shot in the past year (at the time of the survey)
 - 52.1% of men aged 50 years and older said they received a PSA test in the past two years (at the time of the survey)
- The 2016 Johns Hopkins All Children's Hospital Community Health Needs Assessment^{ix} indicated that most parents have access to basic health care, such as primary care, immunizations and annual well-visits. But more access to mental health, dental, medications, specialists and programs is needed.
- Almost 15% of those surveyed in the 2018 Pinellas County Community Health Assessment^x said there was at least one time in the previous year when they wanted to see a doctor but could not because of finances.

In addition to the cost of health care and lack of insurance, shortage of health care professionals in low-income areas is also of concern. Health Professional Shortage Areas (HPSAs) are designated by Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) as having shortages of primary care, dental care, or mental health providers and may be geographic (a county or service area), population (e.g., low income or Medicaid eligible) or facilities (e.g., federally qualified health centers, or state or federal prisons). Figures 1, 2, and 3^{xi} depict Pinellas County Health Professional Shortage Areas for Primary Care, Mental Health, and Dental Health respectively.

Access to care requires not only financial coverage but also access to providers. In Pinellas County, the ratio of population to primary care physicians, dentists, and mental health providers is 1,090:1, 1,470:1, and 570:1, respectively. Whether or not there is a sufficient number of physicians, it does not mean they are all affordable, available to populations with the highest need, take all forms of insurance, or are culturally competent.^{xii}

CLINICAL CARE

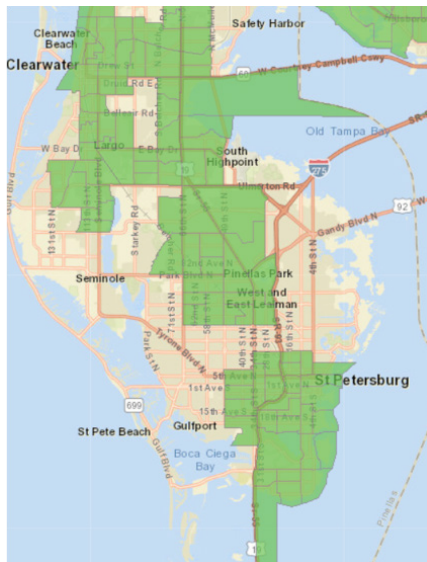


FIGURE 1:
Pinellas County Health
Professionals Shortage Areas
for Primary Care - 2018

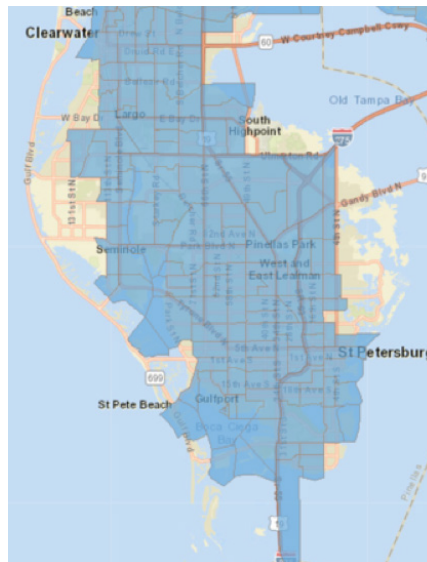


FIGURE 2:
Pinellas County Health
Professionals Shortage Areas
for Mental Health - 2018

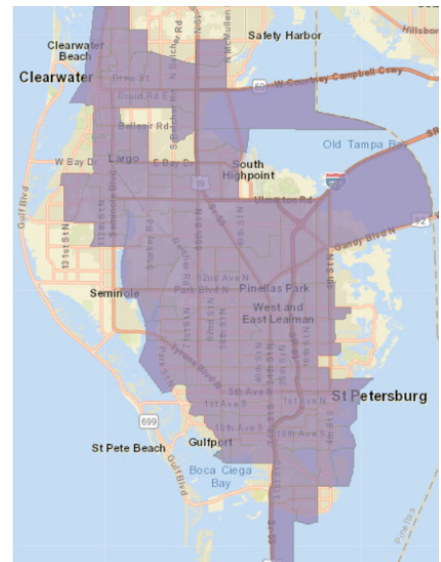


FIGURE 3:
Pinellas County Health
Professionals Shortage Areas
for Dental Health - 2018



ABOUT THE FOUNDATION FOR A HEALTHY ST. PETERSBURG

The Foundation for a Healthy St. Petersburg (FHSP) is a private foundation formed in 2013 following the sale of the nonprofit Bayfront Health St. Petersburg. It is the steward of almost \$180 million in assets to support health equity in Pinellas County. Our mission is to end differences in health due to social or structural disadvantages to improve population health. We do this by inspiring and empowering people, ideas, information exchange, organizations and relationships.

Not everyone in Pinellas County is able to attain their highest level of health and well-being. Too often, the place where a person is born, grows, lives, works, learns, or ages contains impediments stemming from entrenched social or demographic factors such as race, gender, personal attribute, income, or geography. This is unacceptable and ultimately unsustainable. The Foundation for a Healthy St. Petersburg seeks to address health disparities, advance population health, and achieve health equity in Pinellas County.

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.



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PLEASE NOTE:

This series of Pinellas 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.

