

Lee County Health Needs Assessment 2025



Prepared by



HEALTH
PLANNING
COUNCIL
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Source: Photo courtesy of the Health Planning Council of Southwest Florida, Inc.

Population

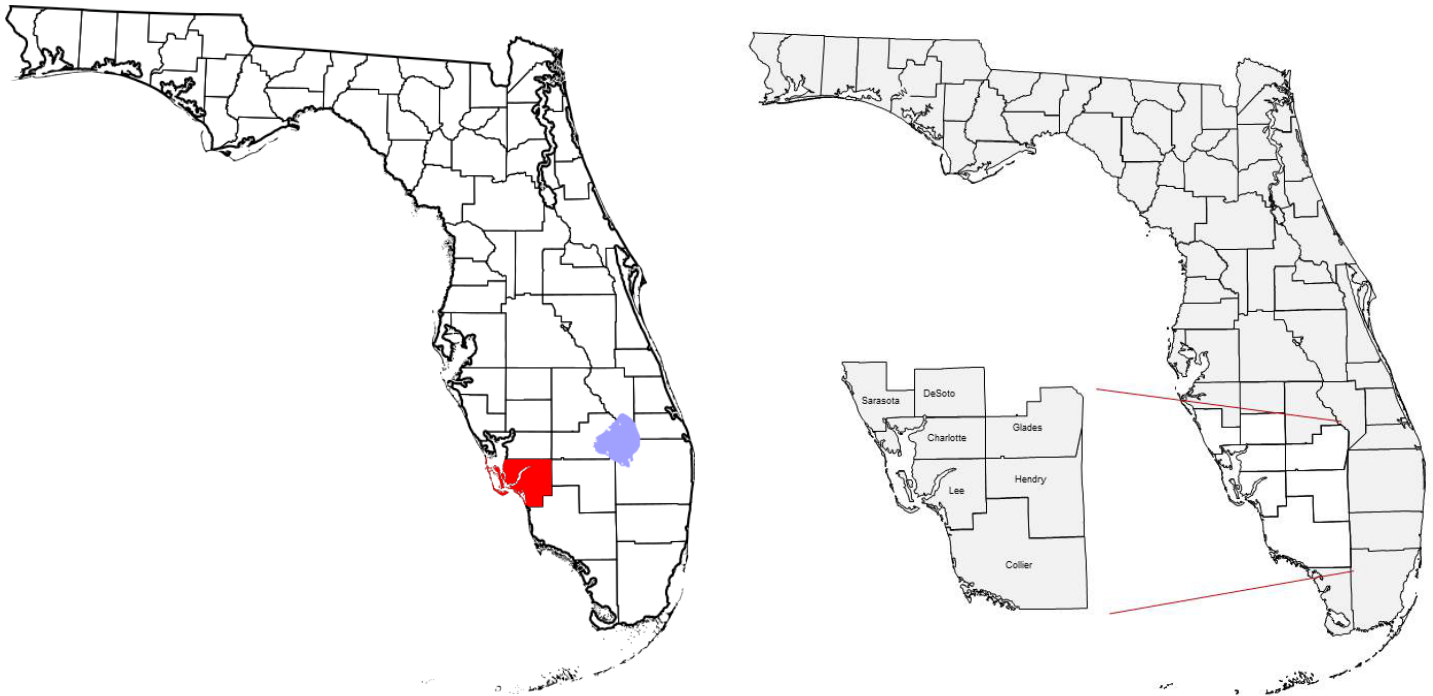


Source: Photo courtesy of the Health Planning Council of Southwest Florida

This section of the Community Health Assessment (CHA) for Lee County provides a detailed overview of the demographic characteristics of our community. It analyzes population growth, age distribution, and gender, as well as race and ethnicity. Recognizing the unique dynamics of Lee County, this section also examines the seasonal population and the population of people with disabilities. Understanding these population characteristics is essential for interpreting health data, identifying areas for improvement, and tailoring services to meet the diverse needs of Lee County residents.

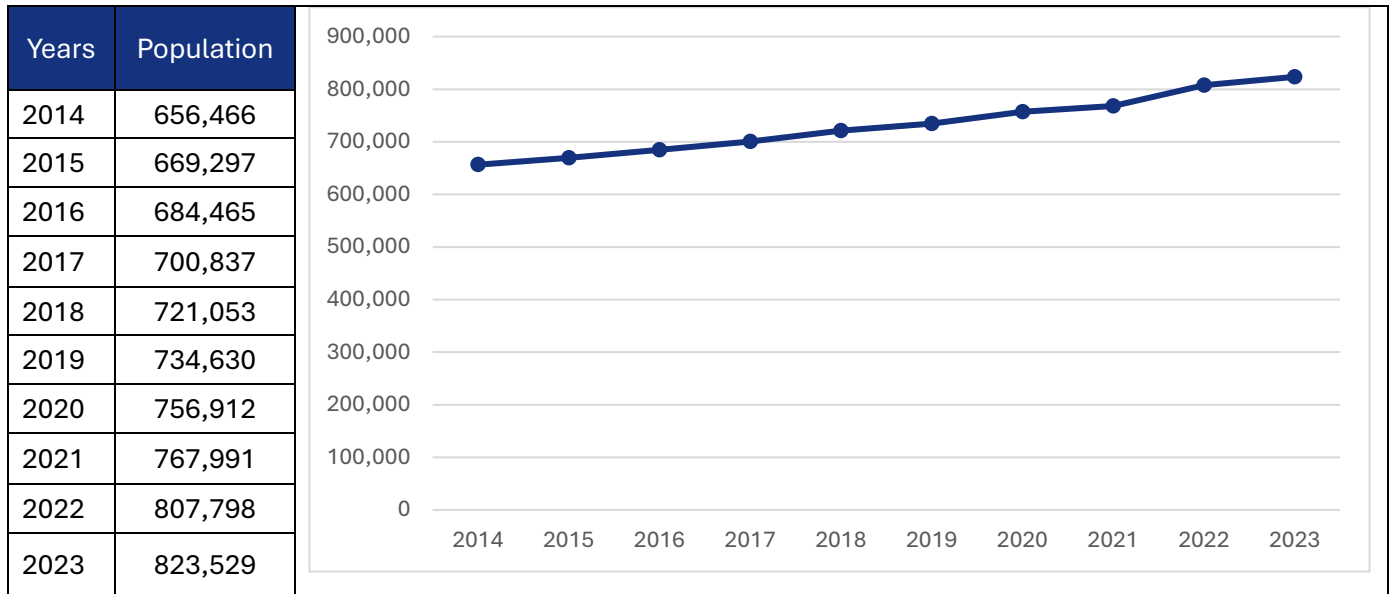
Population Growth, Age Distribution, and Gender

The sheer number of people in a community is the leading determinant of healthcare services. Lee County, which has a population of over 823,529 (2023), is in southwest Florida. The county also shares borders with the following counties: Charlotte to the north, Hendry to the east, Glades to the northeast, and Collier to the south. Lee is one of seven counties in southwest Florida that comprise the Local Health Planning District 8 as designated by the Florida Agency for Health Care Administration (AHCA). Fort Myers is the county seat, with Cape Coral being the largest city in the county. Lee County is 1,212 square miles in area; about 35 percent of the area is covered by water. It is the 26th largest county in Florida. According to the Florida Office of Economic and Demographic Research (EDR), in 2024, the county had a population density of about 1,058.9 persons per square mile compared to the state average of 429 persons per square mile. Lee County is Florida's 8th most populous county, according to EDR.



Between 2014 and 2023, the resident population of Lee County grew at a swift pace. Lee County's population increased by 167,063 or more than 25 percent, from 656,466 in 2014 to a total of 823,529 by 2023.

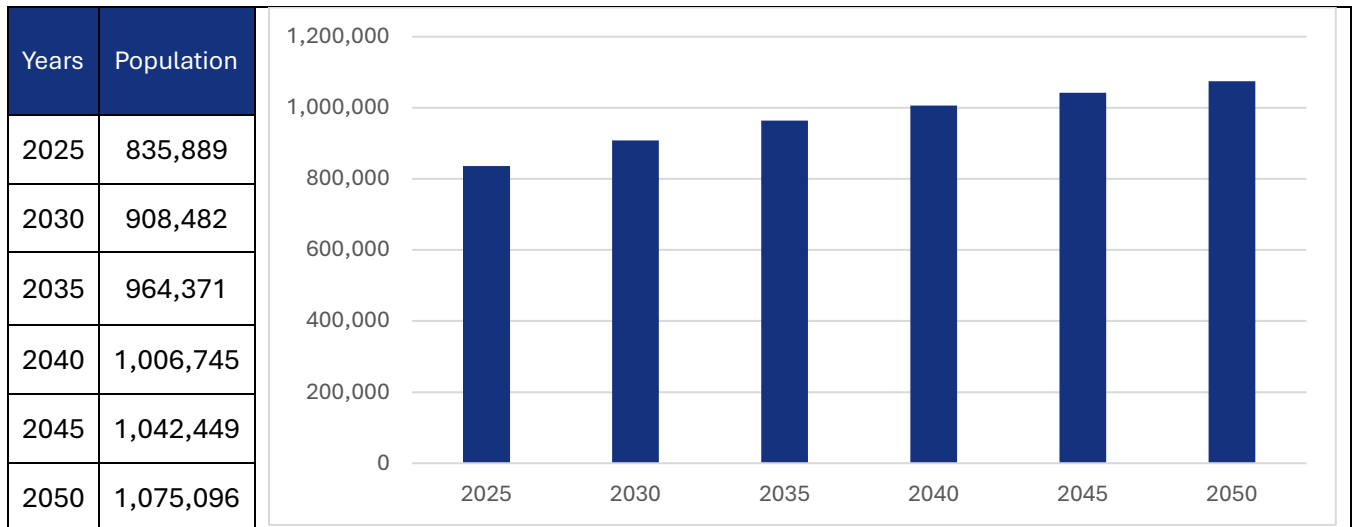
Exhibit P1: Resident Population in Lee County, 2014-2023



Source: Florida Legislature's Office of Economic and Demographic Research (EDR)

The resident population of Lee County is projected to increase by 239,207 between 2025 and 2050, a 28.6 percent increase.

Exhibit P2: Estimated Population in Lee County, 2025-2050

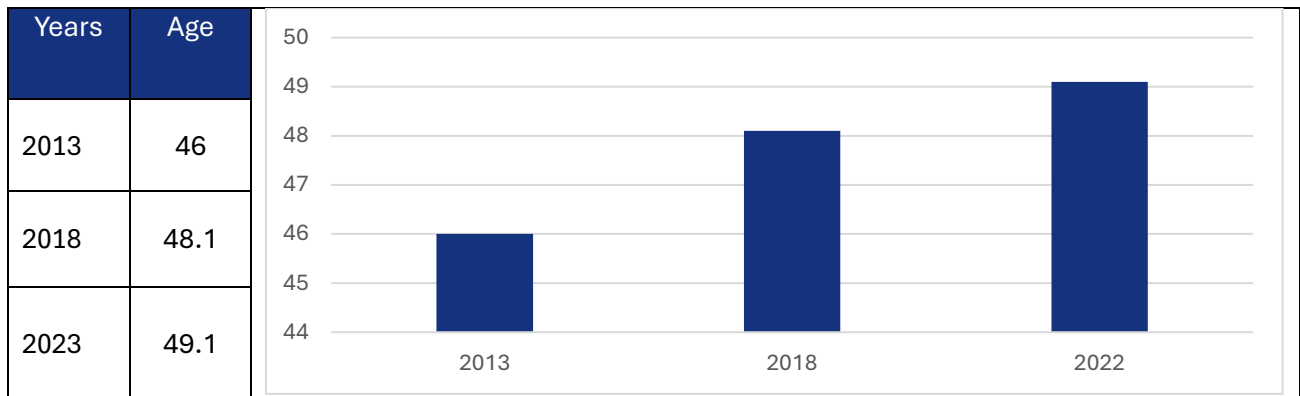


Source: Florida Legislature's Office of Economic and Demographic Research (EDR)

2025 Lee County Community Health Assessment: Population

The median age increased in Lee County by 3.1 years between 2013 and 2023 (46 to 49.1).

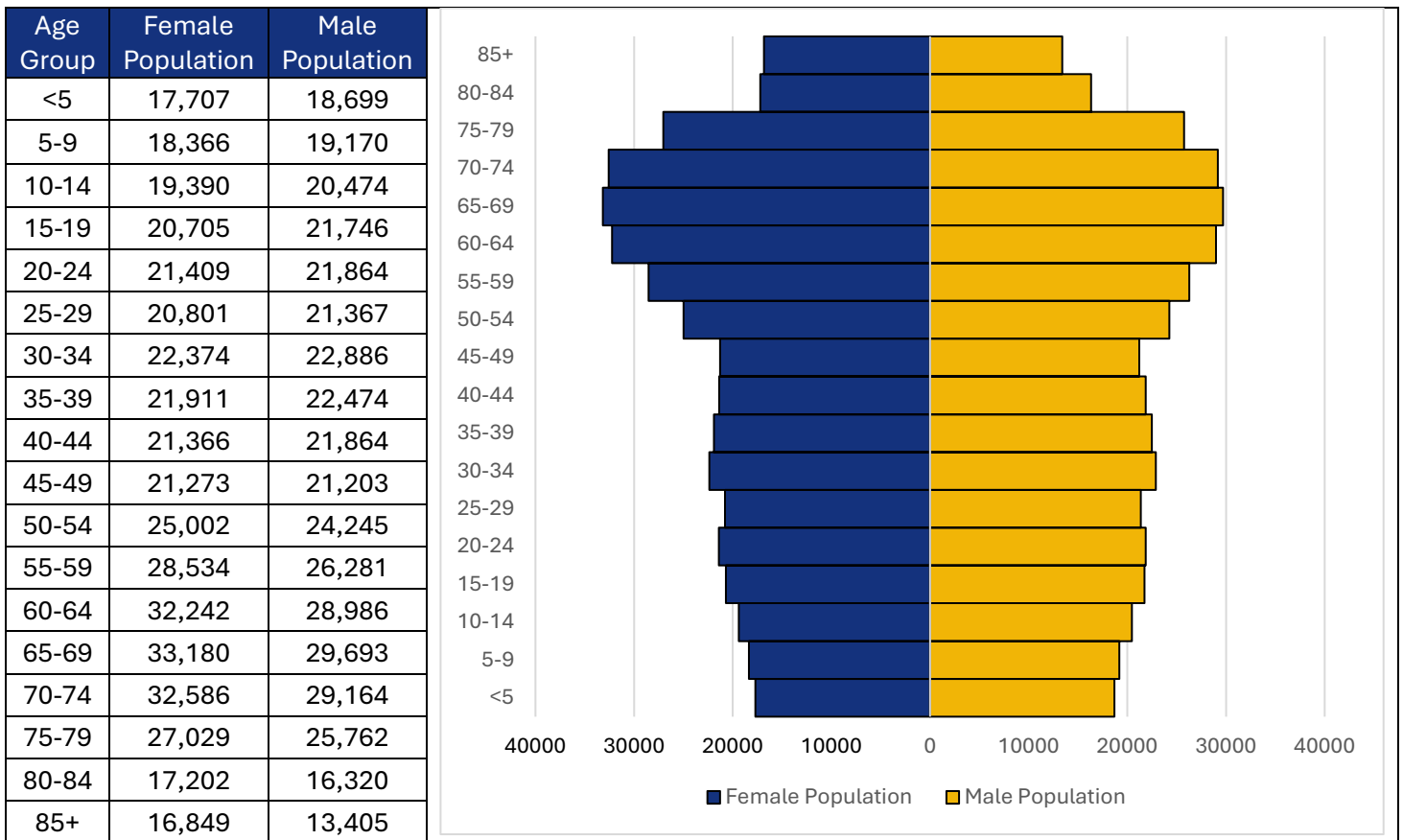
Exhibit P3: Lee County Median Age, 2013, 2018, 2023



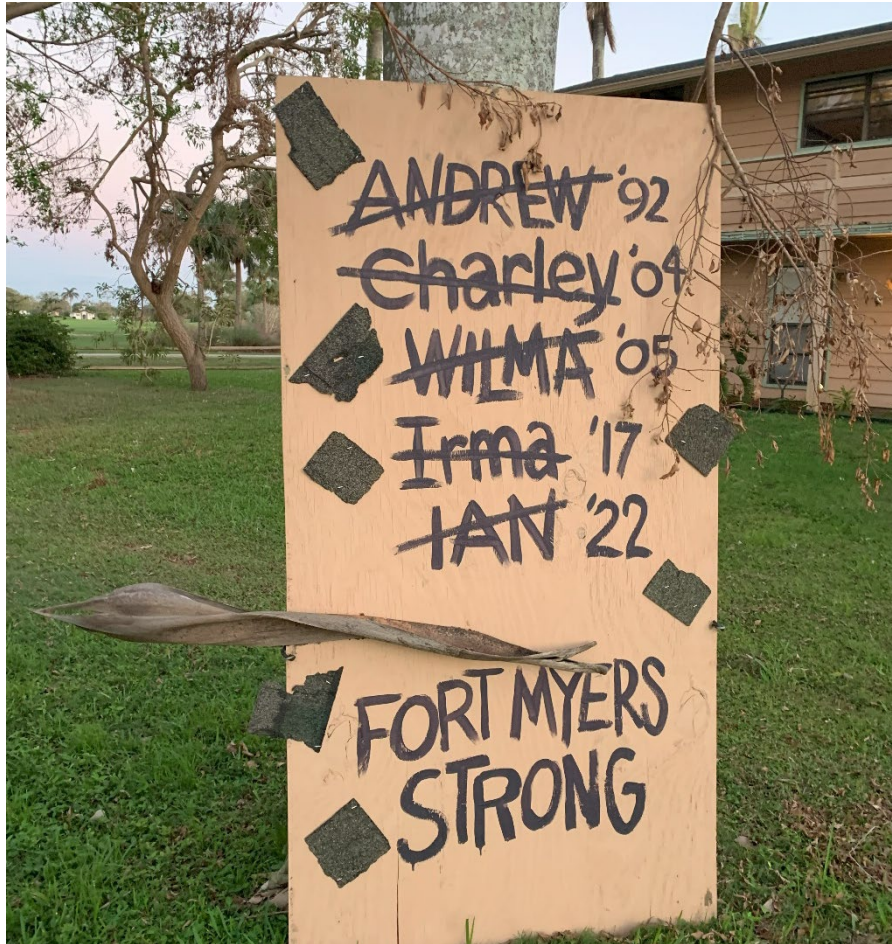
Source: United States Bureau of the Census, American Community Survey, Table B01002

In Lee County, as in all counties in the United States, mortality rates are higher for males than for females. This variance in death rates results in life expectancy at birth being, on average, 5 years greater for females than males. This ultimately results in a more significant female population beginning around 45-49 years of age and increasing over males for every age group thereafter.

Exhibit P4: Population by Age Distribution and Gender, Lee County, 2023



Source: Florida Legislature Office of Economic Demographic Research



Source: Photo courtesy of the Health Planning Council of Southwest Florida

Race and Ethnicity

Between 2003 and 2023, the black population in Lee County more than doubled, from 36,686 to 75,969, respectively. However, since the populations of the other groups also increased, the overall share of the population increased by only 1.8 percent, from 7.4 to 9.2 percent.

Exhibit P5: Lee County Population by Race, 2003, 2013, 2023

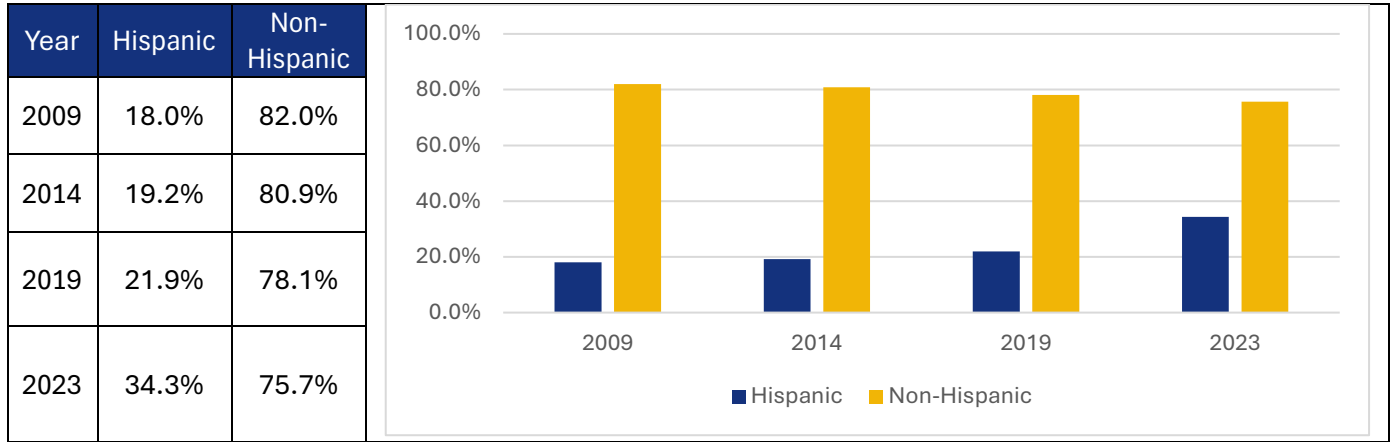
	2003		2013		2023	
	Total	Percent	Total	Percent	Total	Percent
White	449,316	90.2%	565,965	87.4%	711,692	86.4%
Black	36,686	7.4%	57,789	8.9%	75,969	9.2%
Other	12,351	2.5%	23,517	3.6%	35,868	4.4%

Source: Florida Legislature Office of Economic Demographic Research

2025 Lee County Community Health Assessment: Population

It is worth noting that in the State of Florida, race and ethnicity are tracked separately. While Hispanics constituted 18 percent of the population in Lee in 2009, by 2023 the proportion increased to more than 34 percent.

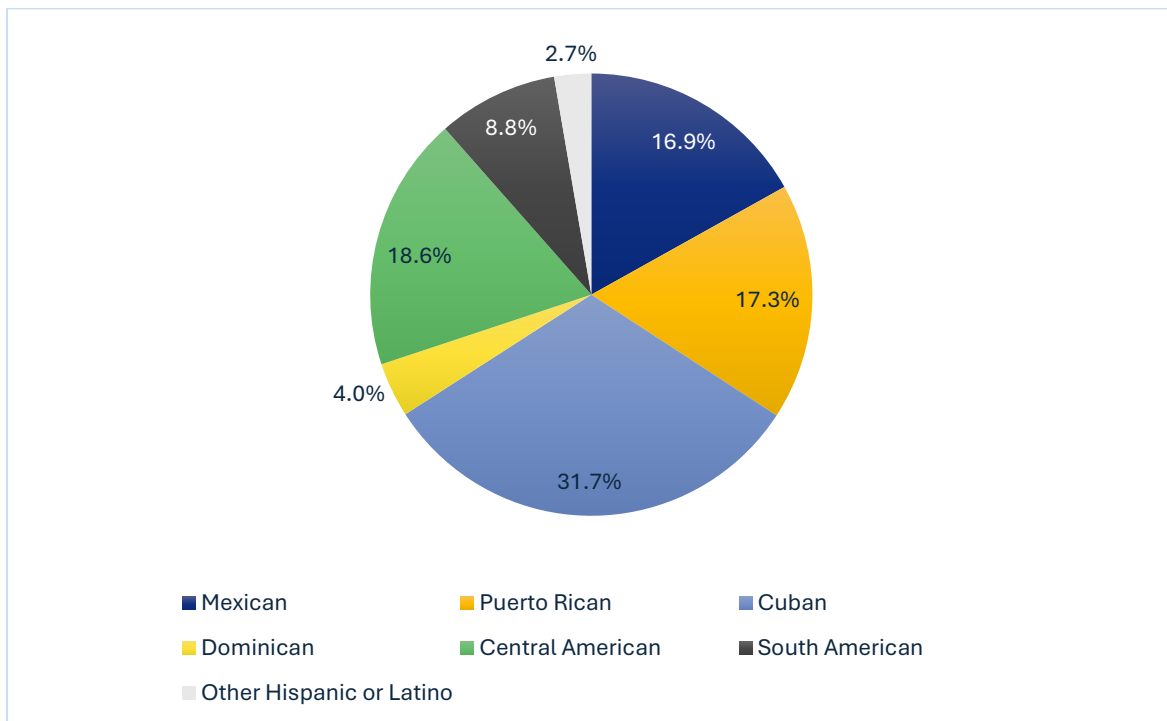
Exhibit P6: Lee County Population by Ethnicity, 2009-2023



Source: Florida Legislature Office of Economic Demographic Research

The largest group of people in Lee County who identify as Hispanic or Latino are of Cuban origin (31.7 percent). The next most common origins are Central American (18.6 percent), Puerto Rican (17.3 percent), and Mexican (16.9 percent).

Exhibit P7: Hispanic or Latino Origin, Lee County, 2023



Source: United States Bureau of the Census, American Community Survey, Table B03001

2025 Lee County Community Health Assessment: Population

In 2023, the largest share of Lee County residents (51.3%) were born in another U.S. state outside of Florida. The percentage of residents of Lee County who were foreign-born increased from 16.7 percent to 18.8 percent between 2019 and 2023. Most foreign-born residents were from Latin America (77%), followed by those from Europe (9%).

Exhibit P8: Lee County Population by Place of Birth, 2019, 2023

	2019		2023	
	Total	Percent	Total	Percent
Born in Florida	202,130	26.2%	227,135	27.2%
Born in another state in the US	413,243	53.6%	428,208	51.3%
Born outside of the US*	26,711	3.5%	22,719	2.7%
Foreign-born+	128,493	16.7%	156,511	18.8%

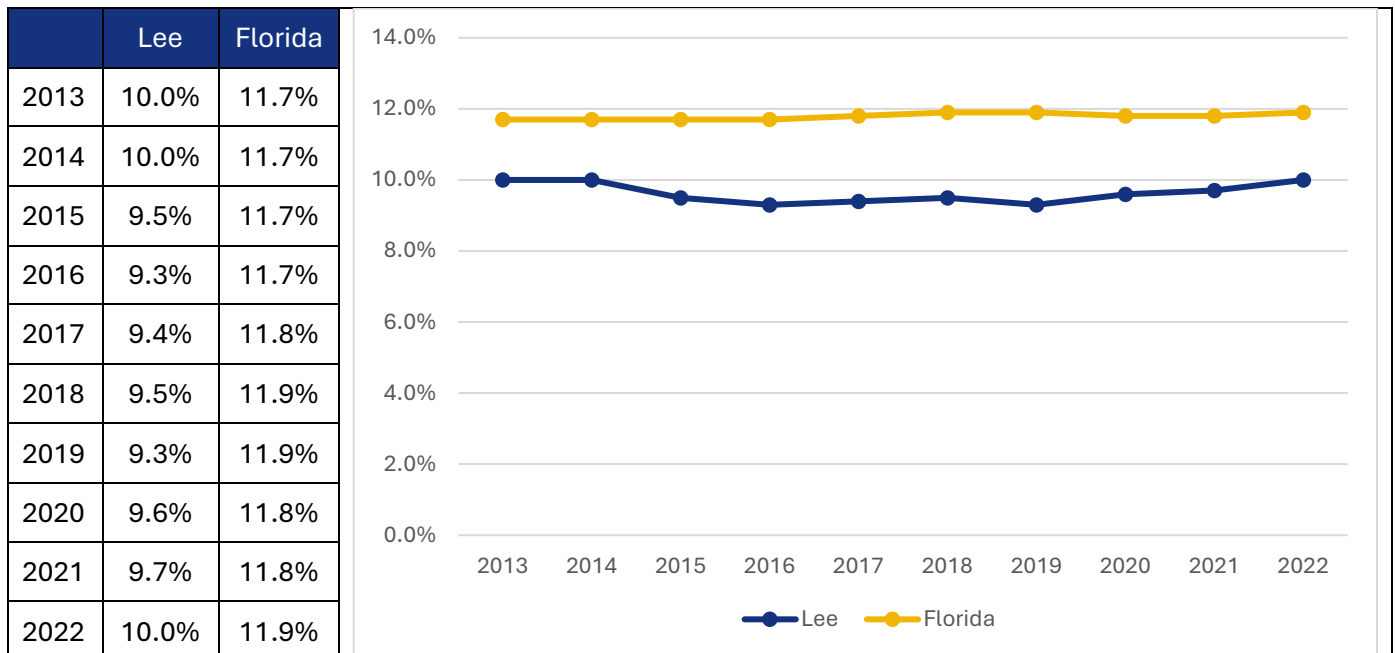
Source: United States Bureau of the Census, American Community Survey, Table B05002

*Persons born outside of the United States are residents or citizens born abroad.

+ Foreign-born refers to persons who were not US citizens or residents when born outside of the country

Lee County consistently has a lower percentage of population that speaks English less than very well when compared to Florida (2022, 10.0% Lee, 11.9% Florida).

Exhibit P9: Population 5+ that Speak English Less Than Very Well, Lee County and Florida, 2013-2022

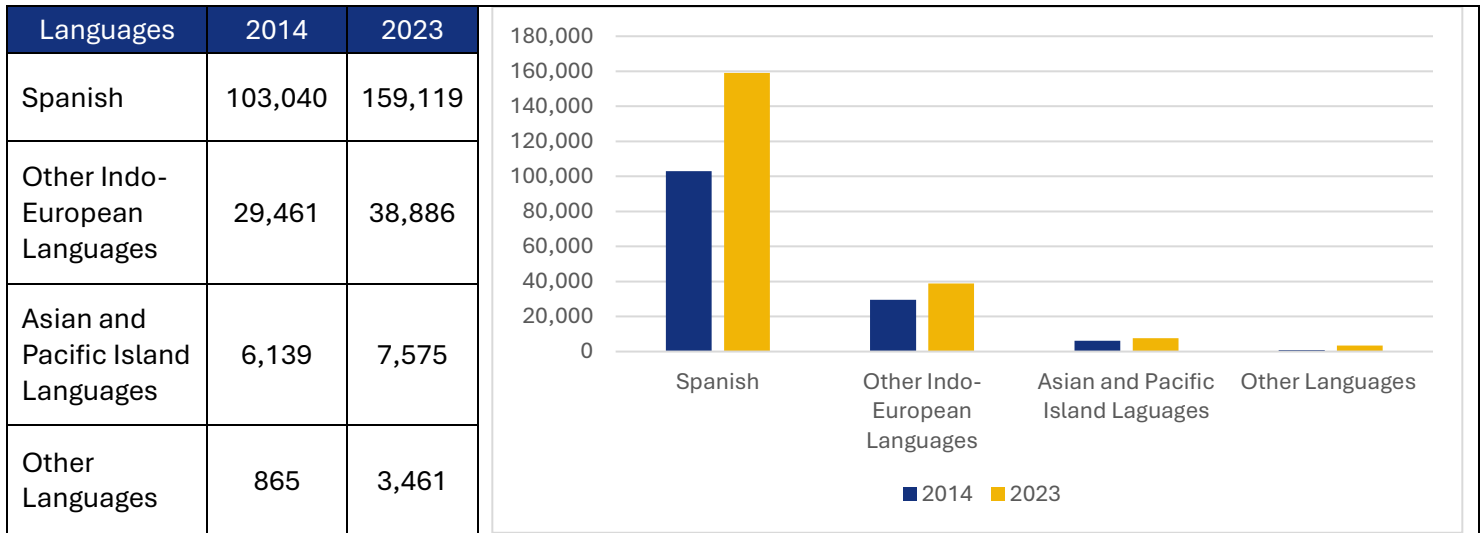


Source: United States Bureau of the Census, American Community Survey, Table B06007

2025 Lee County Community Health Assessment: Population

In 2023, of households that speak languages other than English 76.1 percent spoke Spanish.

Exhibit P10: Lee County Population Estimated Languages Spoken at Home (Other than English), 2014, 2023



Source: Photo courtesy of the Health Planning Council of Southwest Florida, Inc.

Drivers of Health



Source: Photo courtesy of the Health Planning Council of Southwest Florida

This section of the Community Health Assessment (CHA) for Lee County explores the critical role of drivers of health in shaping the well-being of our residents. Recognizing that factors beyond individual behaviors and healthcare access significantly influence health outcomes, this section examines the impact of drivers such as socioeconomic factors, education, housing, homelessness, and the workforce within Lee County. Understanding the distribution and influence of these drivers is vital for identifying the root causes of health challenges and developing comprehensive strategies that address the broader context in which people live, learn, work, and play, ultimately improving health across Lee County.

Education Access and Quality

In past years, the Florida Kindergarten Readiness Screener (FLKRS) was the screening tool utilized for this purpose. However, in 2022-2023, Florida adopted a statewide Coordinated Screening and Progress Monitoring System known as the Florida Assessment of Student Thinking (FAST) Star Early Literacy. FAST Star Early Literacy now serves as the kindergarten screener. To be deemed ready for kindergarten, students needed to score 690 or higher on the FAST Star Early Literacy Assessment.

2025 Lee County Community Health Assessment: Drivers of Health

This assessment is administered to all kindergarten students within the first 30 days of kindergarten.

In 2023, 49 percent of Lee County students were deemed ready when they entered kindergarten, which is lower than the state of Florida (51%). For those who attended VPK, the rates were significantly higher than those among the total population. However, Lee is still below the state average (63% Lee, 64% Florida).

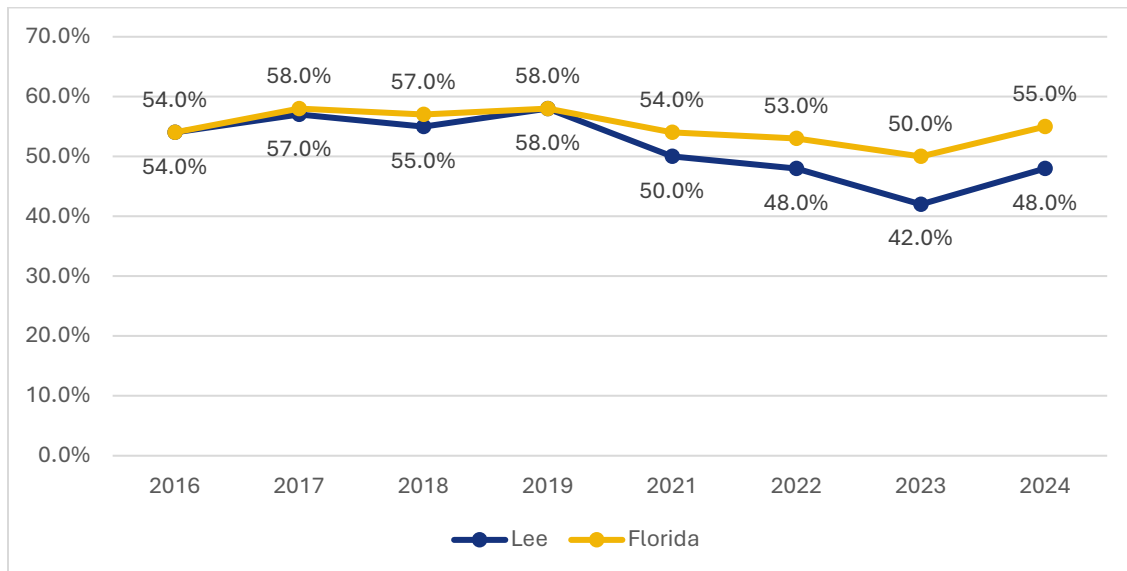
Exhibit D1: Florida Assessment of Student Thinking (FAST) Star Early Literacy, Lee County and Florida, Fall 2023

	Fall 2023 FAST Kindergarten Results		VPK Completers (Attended 70% or more VPK hours)		Kindergarten Students That Did Not Attend VPK/Unmatched to a VPK Record	
	Number of Test Takers	Percentage "Ready for Kindergarten"	Number of Test Takers	Percentage "Ready for Kindergarten"	Number of Test Takers	Percentage "Ready for Kindergarten"
Florida	186,417	51%	101,348	64%	65,520	36%
Lee County	6,333	49%	3,188	63%	2,500	33%

Source: Florida Department of Education (DOE)

In 2024, Lee County students passed the Florida Standards English Language Arts Assessment (FSA) at lower rates than the state average (48% Lee, 55% Florida). To pass, students must achieve a passing level of 3 or above on the FSA. In 2020, the FSA was not given due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Exhibit D2: Students in 3rd Grade with a Passing Grade on Florida Standards Assessment (FSA) English Language Arts, Percent of Grade 3 Students, Lee County and Florida, 2016-2024

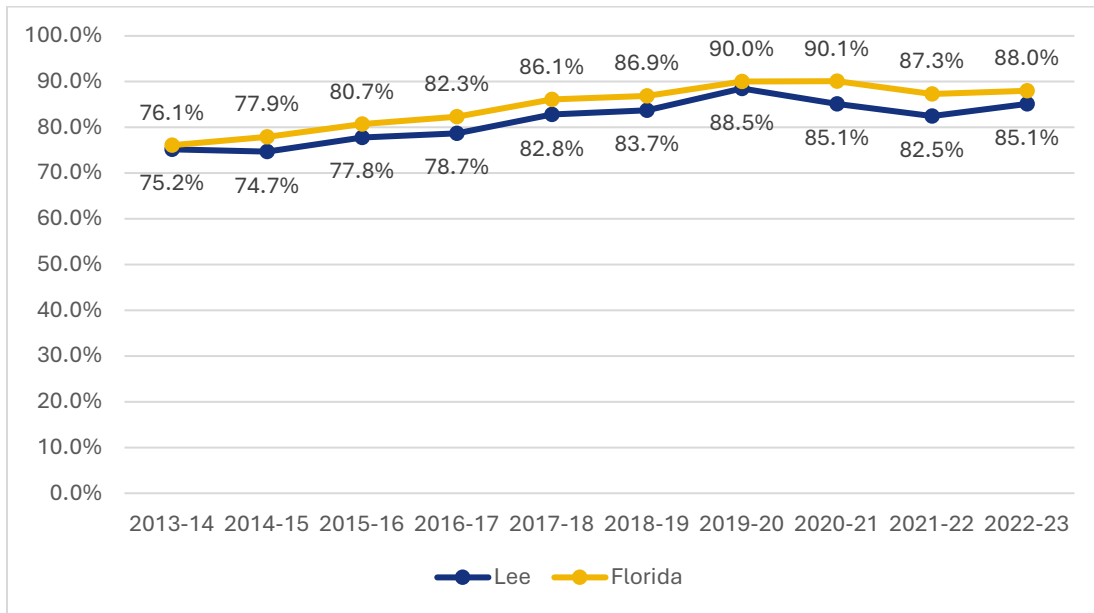


Source: Florida Department of Education (DOE)

2025 Lee County Community Health Assessment: Drivers of Health

Between 2013 and 2023, Lee County consistently had a slightly lower high school graduation rate than the state average (85.1% Lee, 88.0% Florida, 2023).

Exhibit D3: High School Graduation Rate, Percentage of Student Cohort Since 9th Grade, Lee County and Florida, 2013-2023



Source: Florida Department of Education (DOE)

Exhibit D4 displays the educational attainment in the population aged 25 and over for Lee County and Florida in 2013, 2015, and 2019. Between 2015 and 2023, the percentage of the population in Lee County over the age of 25 who did not have at least a high school diploma declined from 13 percent to 9.1 percent; in Florida, the percentage decreased from 12.4 percent to 9.7 percent. During the same period, the percentage of individuals with graduate degrees increased by more than two percentage points in Lee County and by slightly over three percentage points in Florida.

Exhibit D4: Educational Attainment of the Population 25 Years and Over, Percent of Population 25+, Lee County and Florida, 2015, 2019, and 2023

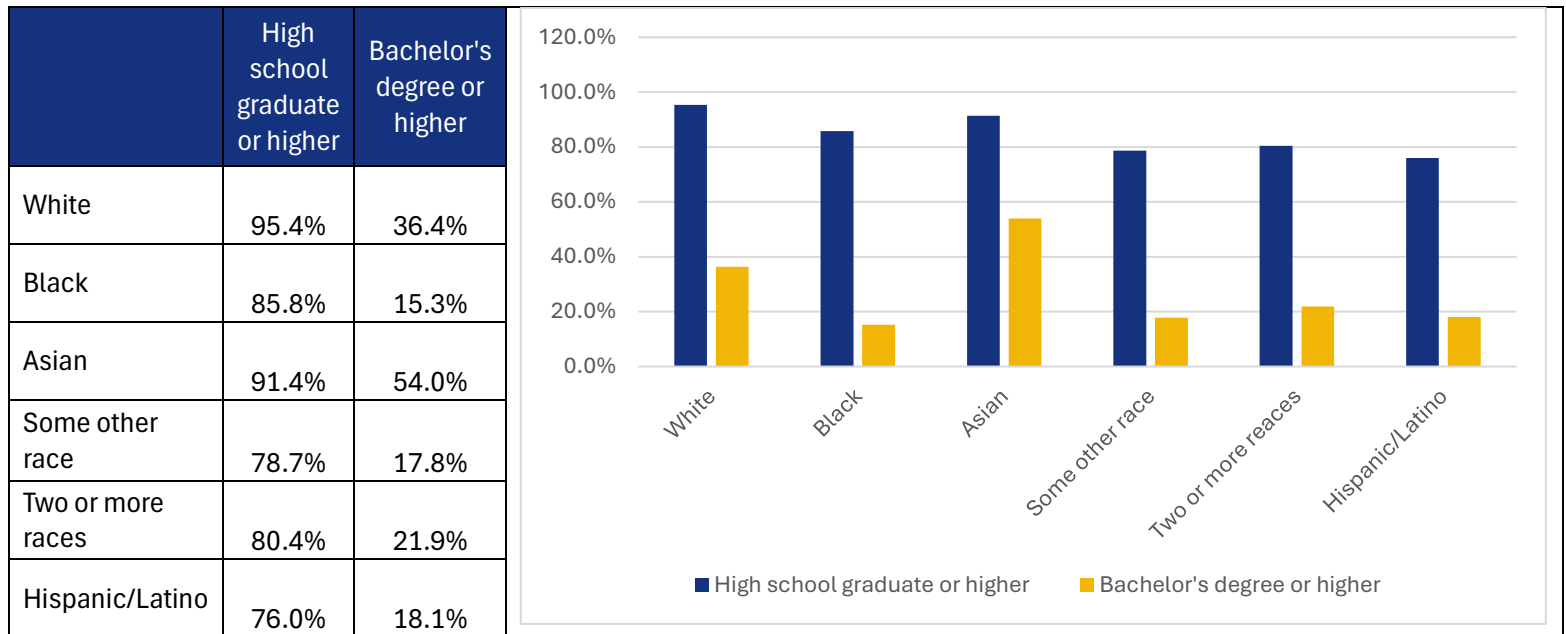
	Lee County			Florida		
	2015	2019	2023	2015	2019	2023
Less than 9th grade	6.0%	4.7%	4.3%	5.2%	4.6%	4.1%
9th to 12th, no diploma	7.0%	6.2%	4.8%	7.2%	7.0%	5.6%
High school graduate/GED	31.2%	31.0%	29.2%	29.2%	28.4%	26.8%
Some college, no degree	21.5%	19.6%	18.9%	20.4%	19.4%	18.4%
Associate degree	8.1%	9.4%	10.8%	9.6%	9.9%	10.1%
Bachelor's degree	15.9%	18.1%	19.3%	18.2%	19.3%	21.6%
Graduate or professional degree	10.3%	10.9%	12.6%	10.2%	11.4%	13.3%

Source: US Bureau of the Census, American Community Survey, Table S1501

2025 Lee County Community Health Assessment: Drivers of Health

Those who identified as Asian have a higher percentage of those with a bachelor's degree or higher when compared to other races/ethnicities. Individuals that identified as white had a higher percentage of those with a high school graduate or higher.

Exhibit D5: Educational Attainment by Race and Ethnicity, Lee County and Florida, 2023



Source: US Bureau of the Census, American Community Survey, Table S1501

Disabilities

13.7 percent of members of the general public in Lee County have a disability; this is slightly higher than the Florida average of 13.5 percent. The percentage of Lee County adults 65 years and over with a disability is lower than the Florida average (27.1% vs 31.4%).

Exhibit D6: Disability Status, Lee County and Florida, 2019-2023

	Lee	Florida
% Civilian noninstitutionalized population with a disability	13.7%	13.5%
Under 18 years with a disability	4.0%	5.0%
18 to 64 years with a disability	9.6%	10.1%
65 years and over with a disability	27.1%	31.4%

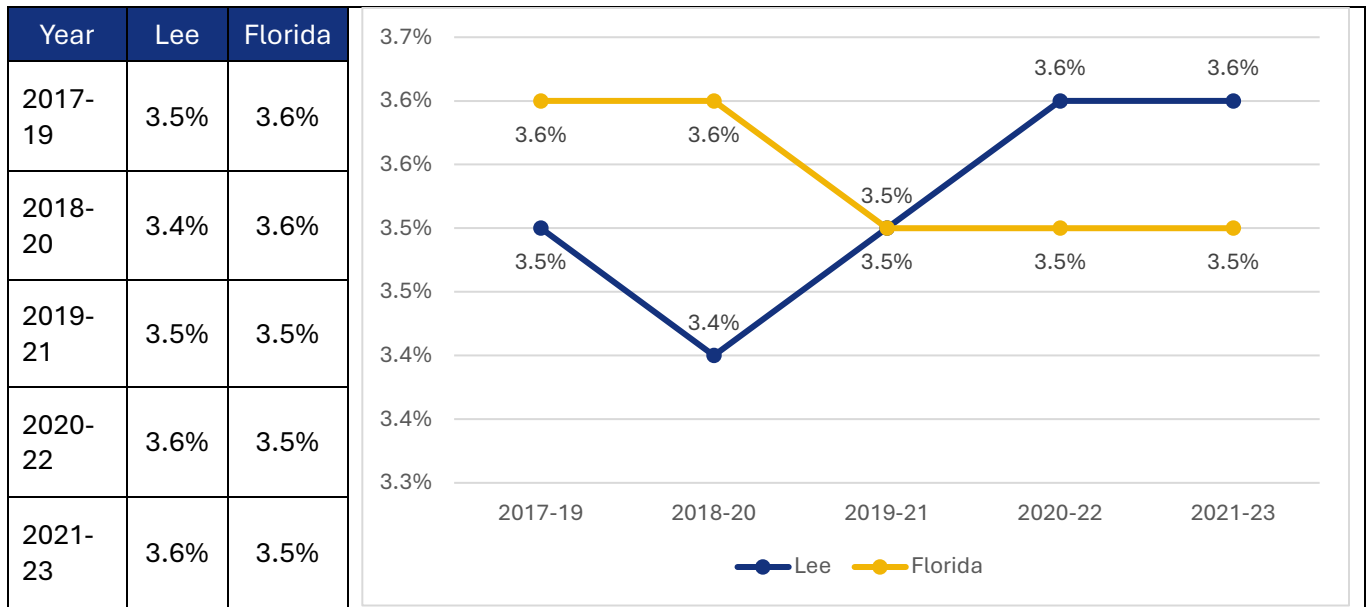
Source: US Census Bureau, American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates, Table DP02

According to the University of Kansas Research & Training Center of Independent Living, someone with an independent living disability is someone with a disability that can make decisions that affect their own lives. The percentage of adults in Lee County with an independent living disability is

2025 Lee County Community Health Assessment: Drivers of Health

slightly higher than the state average (3.6% vs. 3.5%) and increased slightly from 3.5% to 3.6% between 2017-2019 and 2021-2023.

Exhibit D7: Population With an Independent Living Disability (Aged 18-64 Years) (Census ACS), Percentage of Population (Aged 18-64 Years), 3-Year Rolling, Lee County and Florida, 2017-2023



Source: US Census Bureau, American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates, Table B18107



Source: Photo courtesy of the Health Planning Council of Southwest Florida

Workforce

In 2023, the unemployment rate in Lee County was lower than the average rate for Florida. A lower percentage of Lee County residents work outside the county when compared to the Florida average. Lee has a lower per capita personal income when compared to the state of Florida (\$65,878 vs \$68,703).

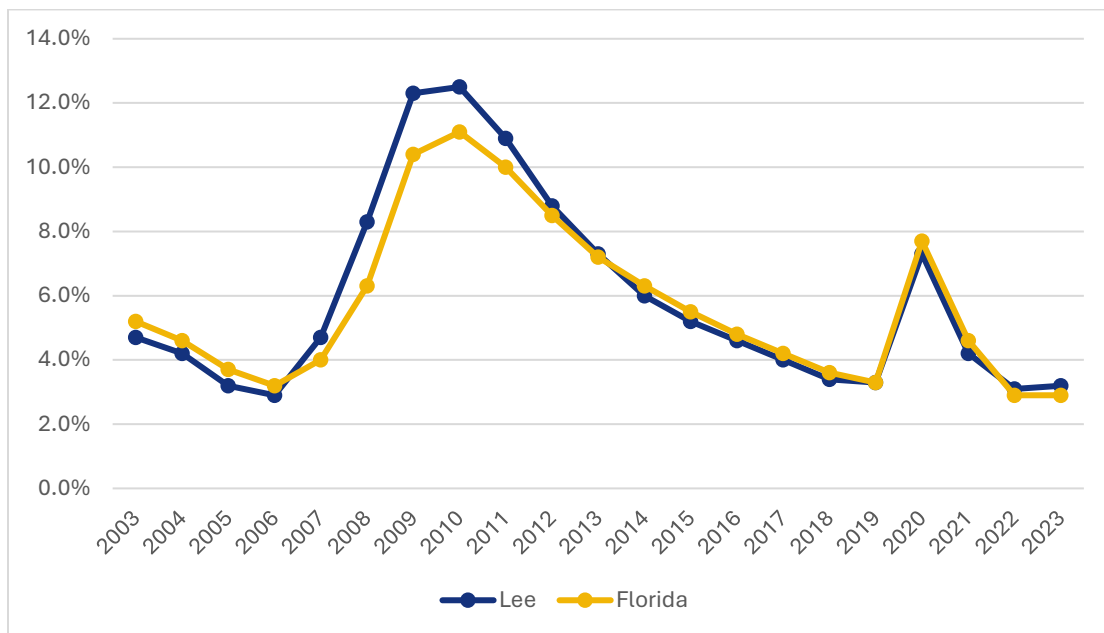
Exhibit D8: Workforce Data, Lee County and Florida, 2023

	Lee	Florida
Labor force as a % of population 18+	57.4%	60.4%
Unemployment rate (%)	3.2%	2.9%
Average annual wage, all industries	\$59,832	\$66,446
Per capita personal income	\$65,878	\$68,703
Workers 16+ working outside county of residence	10.2%	17.2%

Source: The Florida Legislature, Office of Economic and Demographic Research

Exhibit D9 displays the unemployment rates for Lee County and the State of Florida from 2003 to 2023. In Lee County, the unemployment rate ranges from a low of 2.9 percent in 2006 to a high of 11.6 percent in 2010. During this same period, the state rate ranged from a low of 3.7 percent in 2006 to a high of 12.5 percent in 2010. As can be seen in the graph, the unemployment rates for Lee County have been highly correlated with those of the State of Florida over the two decades. In 2023, Lee County had a rate of 3.2 percent compared to 2.9 percent for the state.

Exhibit D9: Unemployment Rate, Percentage of Labor Force, Lee County and Florida, 2003-2023

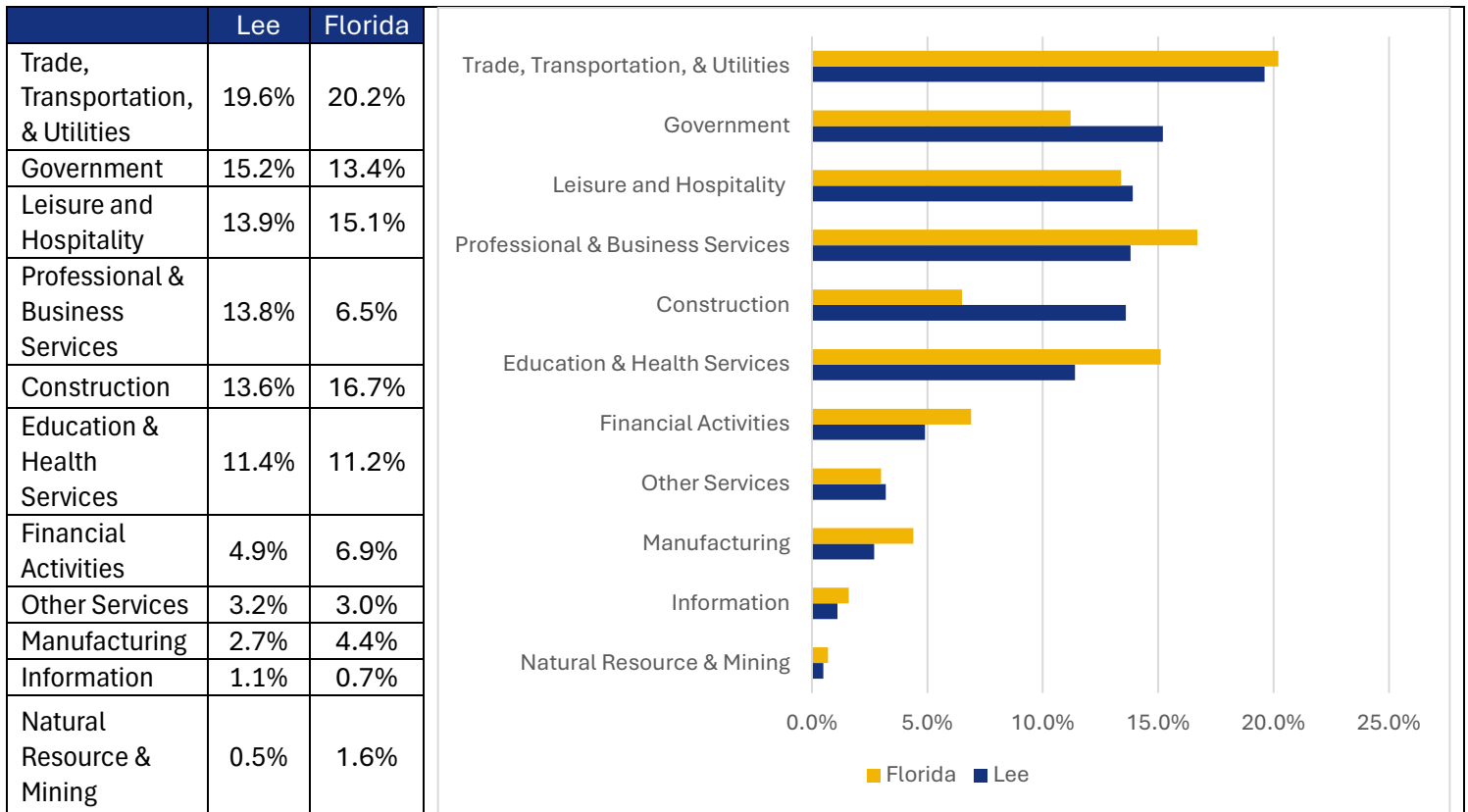


Source: US Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS)

2025 Lee County Community Health Assessment: Drivers of Health

The top three employment categories in Lee County for 2023 are trade, transportation & utilities, government, and leisure and hospitality. Trade, transportation & utilities is also the top employment category for Florida.

Exhibit D10: Average Annual Employment by Category, Lee County and Florida, 2023

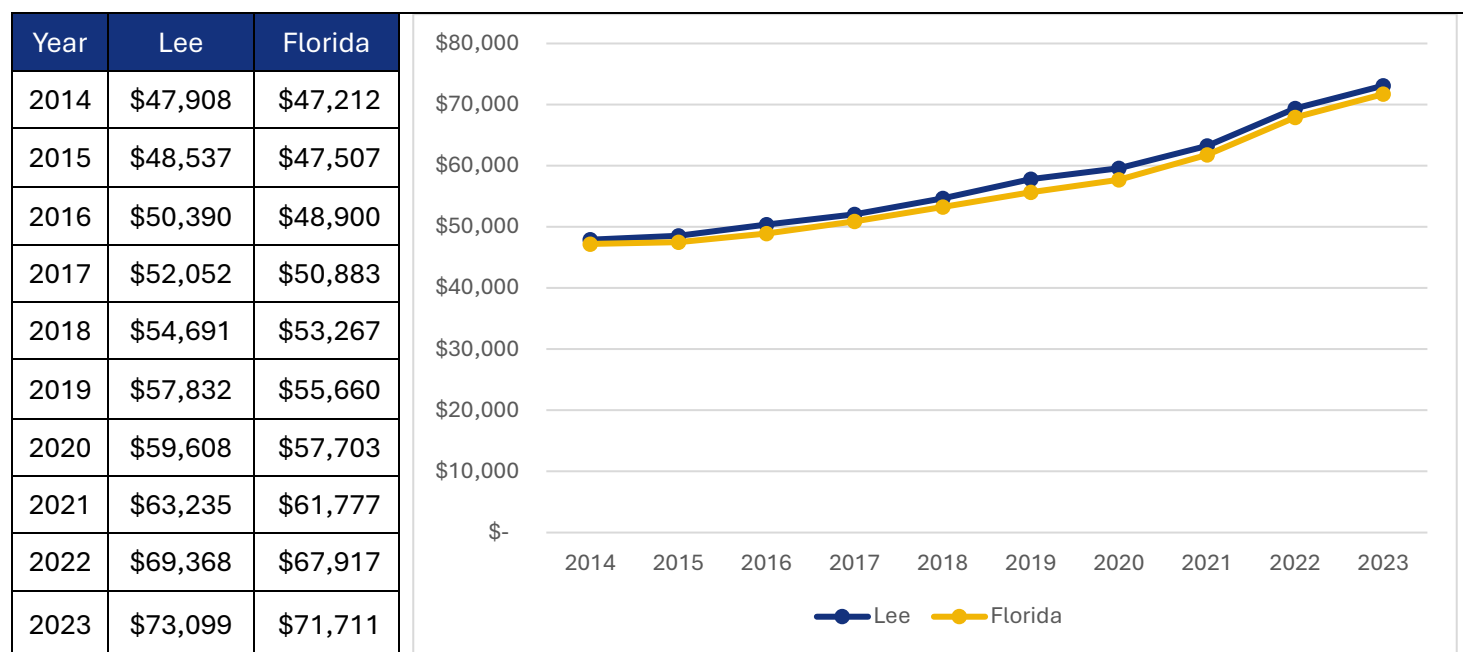


Source: The Florida Legislature, Office of Economic and Demographic Research

Income

Both Lee County and Florida have seen a continuous increase in median household incomes since 2014. The median household income in Lee County for 2023 is slightly higher than the Florida average (\$73,099 vs. \$71,711).

Exhibit D11: Median Household Income, Lee County and Florida, 2014-2023



Source: United States Census Bureau, American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates, Table B19013

In 2023, 3.6 percent of Lee County households had a combined income of less than \$14,999; this compares to 3.5 percent across Florida and 3.2 percent in the United States. 17.3 percent of Lee County households had an income of \$100,000 or more during 2023; this is a lower proportion than the State of Florida's average of 18.7 percent and the United States' average of 23.0%. Most Lee County residents earned between \$25,000 and \$49,999, which is on par with the state of Florida and the United States.

Exhibit D12: Earnings in the Past 12 Months, Lee County, Florida, and United States, 2015, 2019, 2023

	2015			2019			2023		
	Lee	Florida	US	Lee	Florida	US	Lee	Florida	US
Less than \$9,999	2.2%	1.8%	1.8%	2.0%	1.7%	1.7%	2.2%	1.6%	1.5%
\$10,000 to \$14,999	1.4%	4.5%	3.7%	2.5%	3.6%	2.7%	1.4%	1.9%	1.7%
\$15,000 to \$24,999	6.7%	18.2%	14.2%	13.1%	15.1%	10.8%	6.7%	7.1%	5.9%
\$25,000 to \$34,999	14.3%	19.3%	16.1%	20.9%	19.0%	15.2%	14.3%	14.1%	11.0%
\$35,000 to \$49,999	23.2%	21.1%	20.0%	24.0%	20.8%	19.7%	23.2%	21.3%	18.9%
\$50,000 to \$64,999	16.8%	13.2%	14.9%	14.7%	13.8%	15.5%	16.8%	16.9%	16.6%
\$65,000 to \$74,999	7.1%	5.0%	6.3%	5.6%	5.7%	6.9%	7.1%	7.1%	8.0%
\$75,000 to \$99,999	11.0%	7.2%	9.8%	6.7%	8.4%	11.0%	11.0%	11.3%	13.4%
\$100,000 or more	17.3%	9.8%	13.3%	10.5%	11.9%	16.5%	17.3%	18.7%	23.0%

Source: US Census Bureau, American Community Survey, Table S2001

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Median or average incomes only tell part of the story of disparate income levels within a county. A quintile equates to one-fifth of the households in Lee County; thus, in this chart, 20 percent of the population has a household income of \$32,480 or less, while 20 percent of the population has a household income above \$141,798. The top 5 percent of households in Lee County have an income of more than \$250,000 (the highest threshold broken out by the US Bureau of the Census).

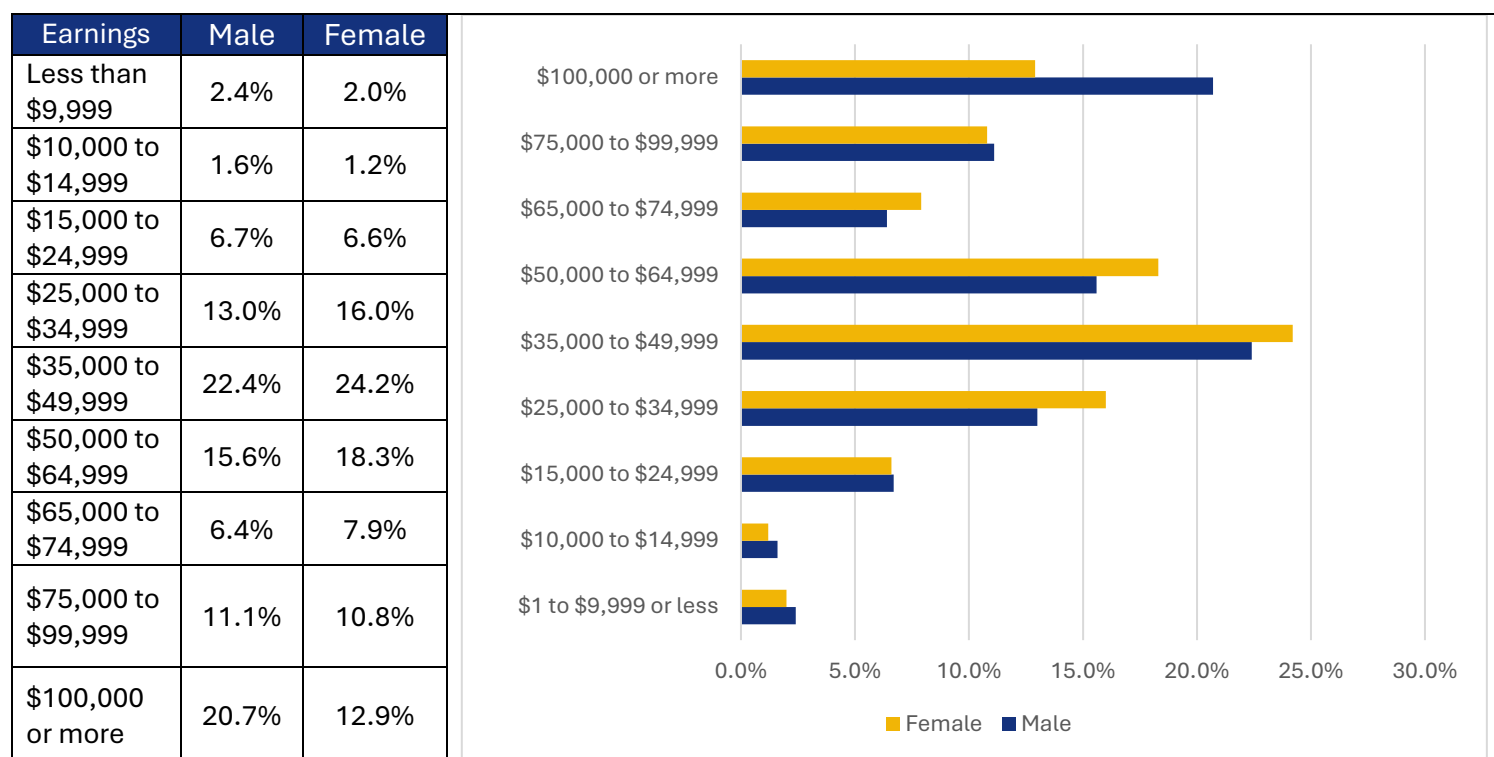
Exhibit D13: Household Income Quintile Upper Limits, Lee County and Florida, 2023

	Lee	Florida
Lowest quintile	\$32,480	\$31,559
Second quintile	\$58,158	\$58,563
Third quintile	\$89,107	\$91,114
Fourth quintile	\$141,798	\$144,290
Lower limit of top 5 percent	\$250,000+	\$250,000+

Source: US Census Bureau, American Community Survey, Table B19080

In Lee County in 2023, significantly more men than women earned more than \$100,000 in a year (20.7% men, 12.9% women).

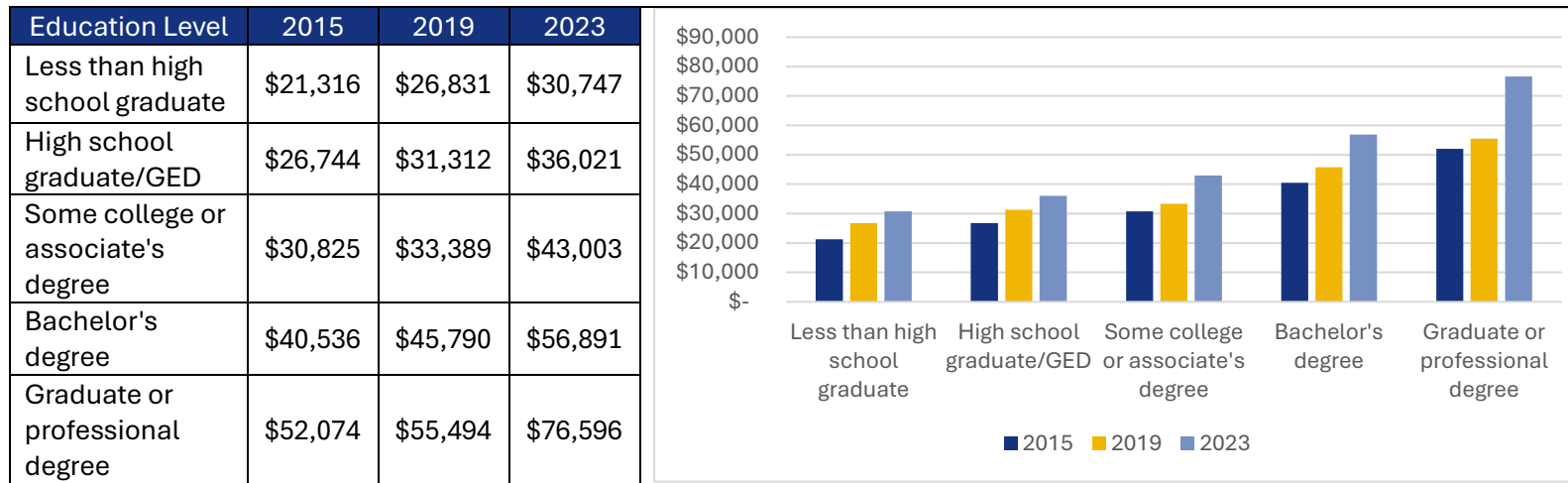
Exhibit D14: Earnings in the Past 12 Months by Sex, Lee County 2023



Source: US Census Bureau, American Community Survey, Table S2001

On average, individuals in Lee County who have a graduate or professional degree earn \$45,849 more annually than individuals with less than a high school education. The median income has continued to rise between 2015 and 2023, regardless of educational attainment.

Exhibit D15: Median Earnings by Educational Attainment, Lee County, 2015, 2019, 2023



Source: US Census Bureau, American Community Survey, Table S2001

Poverty and Food Assistance

According to County Health Rankings, the definition of a living wage is “the hourly wage needed to cover basic household expenses plus all relevant taxes for a household”. The Living Wage Calculator was first created by Dr. Amy K. Glasmeier in 2004. Using twelve different familial compositions, the calculator estimates the living wage needed to support families. The tables below show the hourly rate an individual in a household must earn to support themselves and/or their family. At the time this data was compiled, the minimum wage in Florida was \$13.00, which is greater than the federal minimum wage of \$7.25.

Exhibit D16: Living Wage Calculator for Lee County, 2023*

	Living Wage	Poverty Wage
1 Adult		
0 children	\$23.76	\$7.52
1 child	\$38.26	\$10.17
2 children	\$46.49	\$12.81
3 children	\$58.27	\$15.46
2 Adults (1 Working)		
0 children	\$31.80	\$10.17
1 child	\$38.22	\$12.81
2 children	\$41.77	\$15.46
3 children	\$48.69	\$18.10
2 Adults (Both Working)		
0 children	\$15.90	\$5.08
1 child	\$21.60	\$6.41
2 children	\$25.70	\$7.73
3 children	\$30.67	\$9.05

Source: Glasmeier, Amy K. Living Wage Calculator. 2020. Massachusetts Institute of Technology.

*Data was last updated on February 10, 2025

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Compared to Florida and the United States, Lee County has a slightly lower percentage of people living in poverty. In 2023, 12.1 percent of Lee County residents lived in poverty, compared to 12.4 percent for the state.

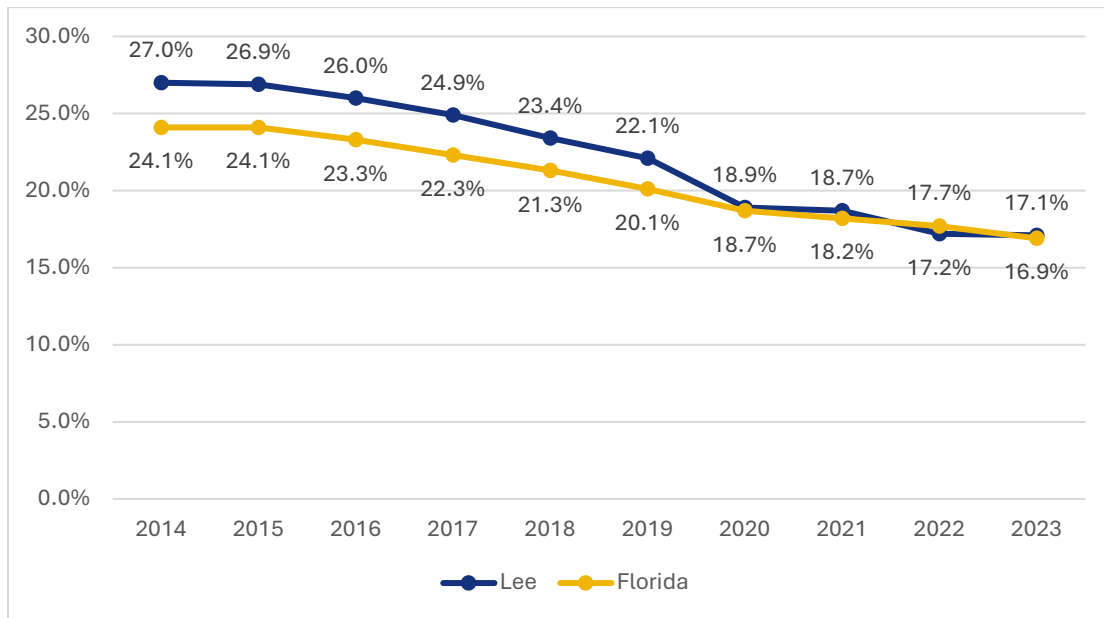
Exhibit D17: Percent of All Ages in Poverty, Lee County, Florida, and United States, 2015, 2019, 2023

	Lee	Florida	US
2023	12.1%	12.4%	12.5%
2019	11.2%	12.7%	12.3%
2015	15.9%	15.8%	14.7%

Source: U.S. Census, Small Area Income and Poverty Estimates

In 2023, Lee County had a slightly higher percentage of children living in poverty than the state average (17.1% Lee, 16.9% Florida). The percentage of children living in poverty in Lee County decreased significantly in the ten years between 2014 and 2023 (27.0% 2014, 17.1% 2023).

Exhibit D18: Individuals Below Poverty Level (Aged 0-17 Years), Percentage of Population (Aged 0-17 Years), Lee County and Florida, 2014-2023

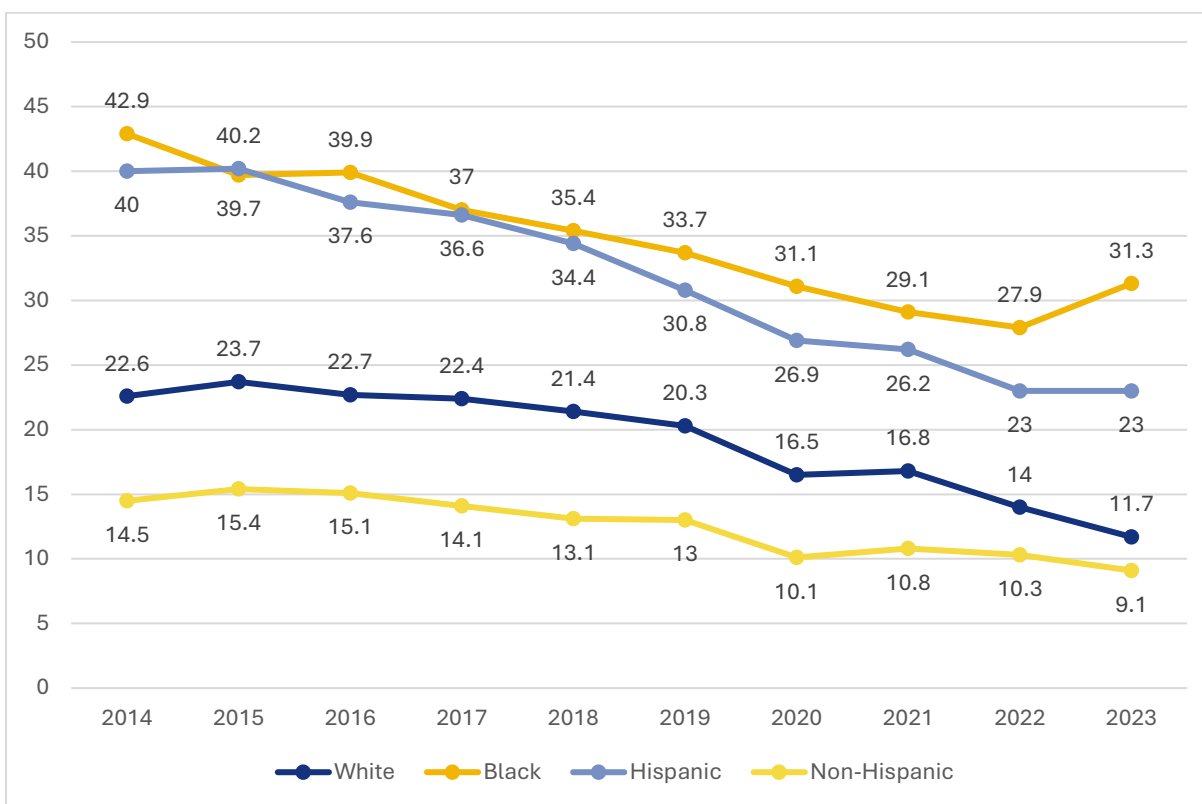


Source: United States Census Bureau, American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates, Table DP03

There are significant disparities seen in the percentage of children living in poverty between various racial/ethnic groups. Race and ethnicity are tracked separately in Florida. While all races and ethnicities saw declines in the percentage of children living in poverty between 2014 and 2023, the percentages for children who identify as Hispanic were significantly higher in 2023 than those who

identify as non-Hispanic (23.0% Hispanic, 9.1% non-Hispanic). Children who identify as black had the highest percentage living in poverty in 2023, with 31.3 percent, and were the only group that saw an increase in poverty between 2022 and 2023.

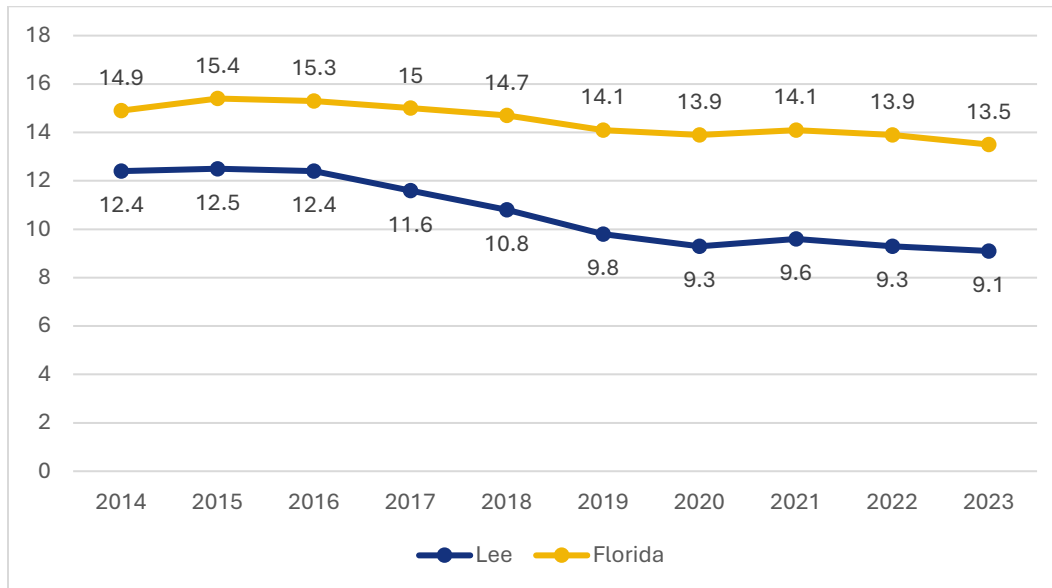
Exhibit D19: Individuals Below Poverty Level (Aged 0-17 Years) by Race and Ethnicity, Percentage of Population (Aged 0-17 Years), Lee County and Florida, 2014-2023



Source: United States Census Bureau, American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates, Table DP03

The Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), administered by the U.S. Department of Agriculture, provides benefits that can be used to purchase food at grocery stores, convenience stores, and select farmers' markets and co-op food programs. Current requirements for eligibility are a household monthly net income of less than 100 percent of the federal poverty guideline. Lee County has consistently had a lower percentage of households receiving assistance compared to Florida. In 2023, Lee had 9.1 percent of families receiving SNAP benefits compared to 13.5 percent for Florida.

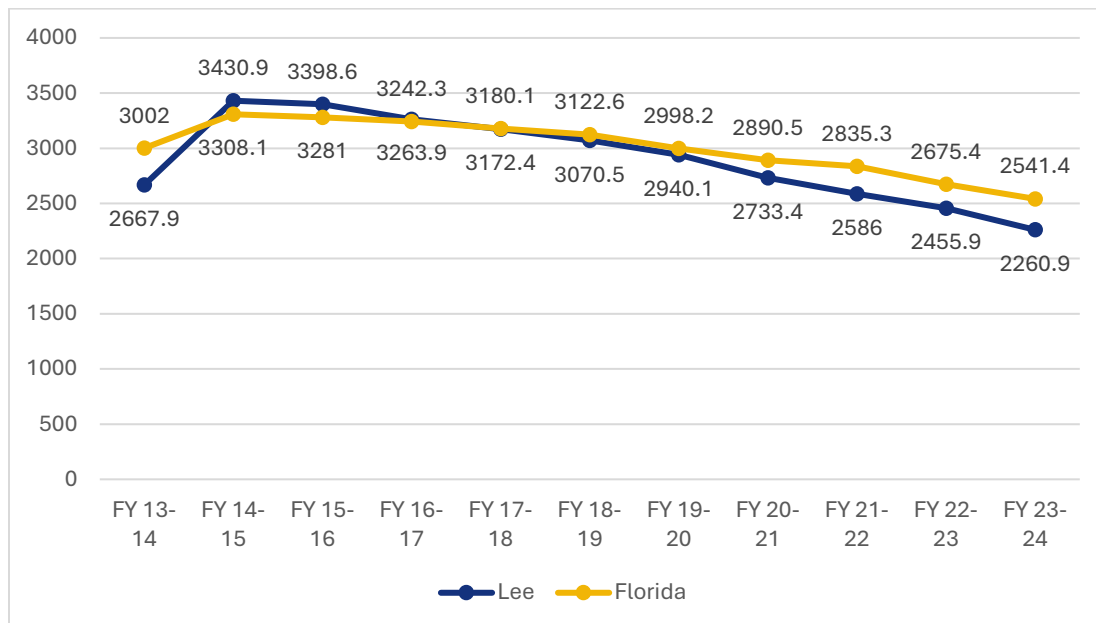
Exhibit D20: Households Receiving Cash Public Assistance or Food Stamps, Percentage of Households, Lee County and Florida, 2014-2023



Source: United States Census Bureau, American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates, Table B19058

The Women, Infants, and Children Nutrition Program (WIC) of the U.S. Department of Agriculture provides food and nutritional assistance to pregnant and new mothers and children less than 5 years of age. Between 2015 and 2024, the number of WIC eligibles in Lee County decreased from 3,430.9 to 2541.4.

Exhibit D21: Women, Infants, and Children (WIC) Eligibles, Rate per 100,000 Population, Lee County and Florida, Fiscal Year 14-15 to Fiscal Year 23-24



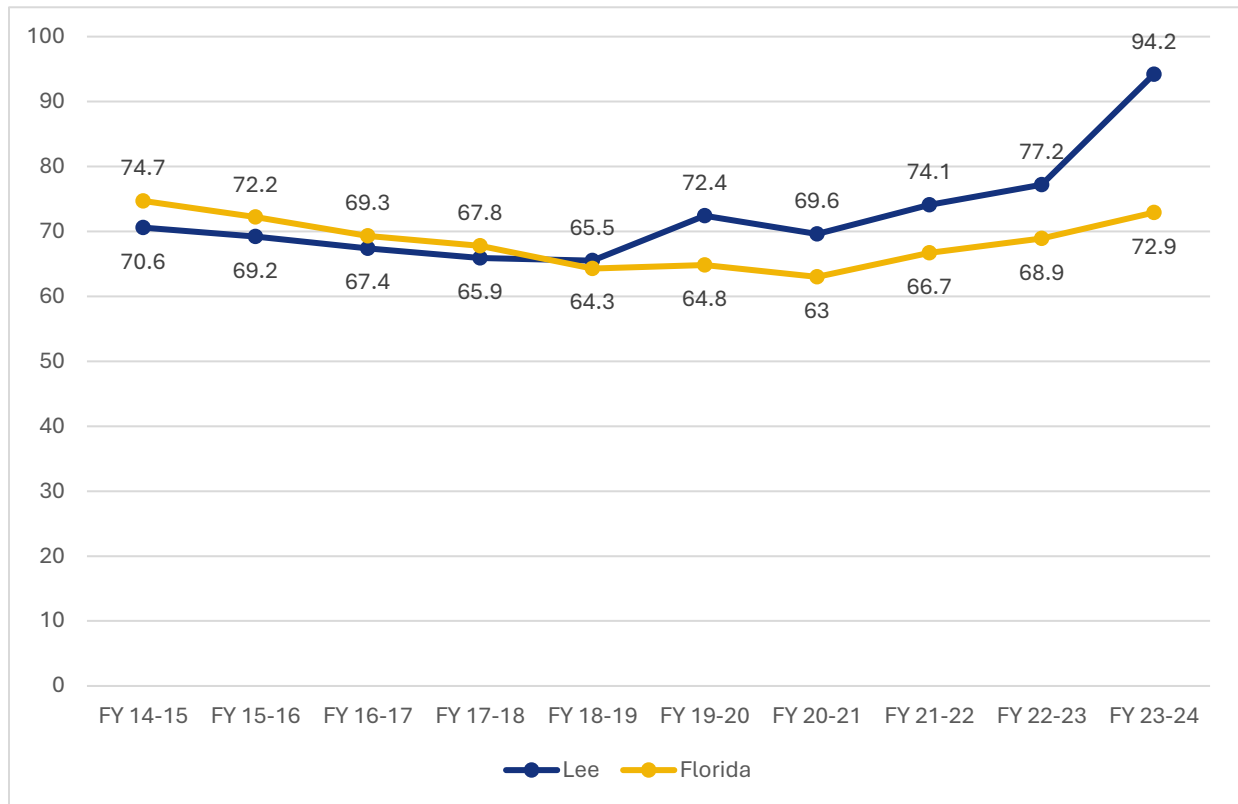
Source: Florida Department of Health, WIC and Nutrition Services, FLWiSE

2025 Lee County Community Health Assessment: Drivers of Health

Compared to Florida, Lee County has consistently served a higher percentage of those eligible for WIC since 2018. WIC eligibles include pregnant and postpartum women, as well as children aged 0-4. Knowing the proportion of those in need who are served supports promoting healthful diets and a healthy weight to optimize health status and quality of life.

The percent of WIC eligibles served is the number served divided by the estimated number in need, expressed as a percentage. Lee County and the State of Florida experienced an increase in service between 2018 and 2024.

Exhibit D22: WIC Eligibles Served, Percentage of WIC Eligibles, Lee County and Florida, Fiscal Year 14-15 to Fiscal Year 23-24



Source: Florida Department of Health, WIC and Nutrition Services, FLWiSE



Source: Photo courtesy of the Health Planning Council of Southwest Florida

ALICE

The United Way has developed a methodology called ALICE (Asset Limited, Income Constrained, Employed) to better approximate the number of people living in poverty in the United States. They believe that despite the Federal Poverty Level's benefit of providing a nationally recognized income threshold for determining who is poor, its shortcomings are well-documented. The measure is not based on the current cost of basic household necessities. Except for Alaska and Hawaii, the data is not adjusted to reflect cost-of-living differences across the U.S. Therefore, the ALICE research team at the United Way developed new measures to identify and assess financial hardship locally,

enhancing existing local, state, and national poverty measures. Between ALICE households and those living in poverty, an estimated 47% of households in Florida were below the ALICE Threshold in 2023.

The first method is the Household Survival Budget. This is an estimate of the total cost of household essentials, including housing, childcare, food, transportation, technology, healthcare, plus taxes and a 10 percent miscellaneous contingency fund. It does not include any savings, leaving households without a cushion for unexpected expenses and unable to invest in the future.

For the average family of four, two adults and two children, the annual household survival budget in Lee County in 2023 was \$79,380. For an adult to make this much a year, the hourly wage would need to be \$39.69. A single adult's household survival budget is \$38,208 with an hourly wage of \$19.10. Currently, Florida's minimum wage is set at \$14.00, which is \$5.10 less than what is needed for a single adult to survive.

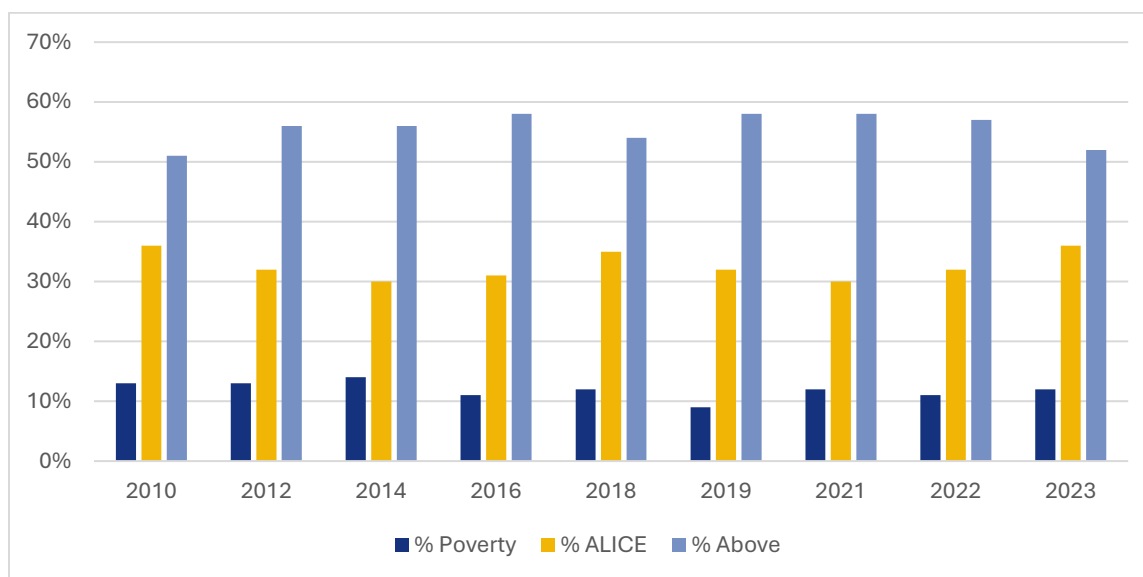
Exhibit D23: ALICE Household Survival Budget, Lee County, 2023

Monthly Costs	Single Adult	One Adult, One Child	One Adult, One in Childcare	Two Adults	Two Adults, Two Children	Two Adults, Two in Childcare	Single Senior (65+)	Two Seniors (65+)
Housing	\$1,298	\$1,298	\$1,298	\$1,298	\$1,639	\$1,639	\$1,298	\$1,298
Child Care	\$0	\$234	\$625	\$0	\$469	\$1,417	\$0	\$0
Food	\$523	\$885	\$795	\$960	\$1,610	\$1,421	\$482	\$883
Transportation	\$469	\$604	\$604	\$709	\$996	\$996	\$399	\$568
Health Care	\$162	\$488	\$488	\$488	\$759	\$759	\$535	\$1,071
Technology	\$86	\$86	\$86	\$116	\$116	\$116	\$86	\$116
Miscellaneous	\$254	\$360	\$390	\$357	\$559	\$635	\$280	\$394
Taxes	\$392	\$329	\$391	\$462	\$467	\$625	\$448	\$694
Monthly Total	\$3,184	\$4,284	\$4,677	\$4,390	\$6,615	\$7,608	\$3,528	\$5,024
Annual Total	\$38,208	\$51,408	\$56,124	\$52,680	\$79,380	\$91,296	\$42,336	\$60,288
Hourly Wage	\$19.10	\$25.70	\$28.06	\$26.34	\$39.69	\$45.65	\$21.17	\$30.14

Source: United Way ALICE, 2023

Families who are living below the ALICE (Asset Limited, Income Constrained, Employed) threshold are considered to be facing financial hardship using the United Way methodology. In 2023, 12 percent of Lee County households were considered to be in poverty, and an additional 36 percent were considered below the ALICE threshold, while 52 percent were above the threshold.

Exhibit D24: Financial Hardship, Percentage of Households in Lee County, 2010-2023



Source: United Way ALICE, 2023

The percentage of households facing financial hardship in Lee County in 2023 varied significantly by location. In Paloma Park, 100 percent of households were below the ALICE threshold, while in Gateway and Verandah, only 26 percent of households were below the threshold.

Exhibit D25: Financial Hardships by Census Places in Lee County, 2023

Census Places	Total Households	% Below ALICE Threshold
Alva CDP, Florida	1,233	42%
Bokeelia CDP, Florida	872	49%
Bonita Springs city, Florida	24,586	37%
Buckingham CDP, Florida	1,893	34%
Burnt Store Marina CDP, Florida	1,206	28%
Cape Coral city, Florida	83,021	46%
Cypress Lake CDP, Florida	6,936	53%
Estero Village, Florida	18,287	31%
Fort Myers Beach, Florida	2,872	36%
Fort Myers city, Florida	39,447	55%
Fort Myers Shores CDP, Florida	2,209	53%
Gateway CDP, Florida	3,773	26%
Harlem Heights CDP, Florida	505	60%
Iona CDP, Florida	7,653	49%
Lehigh Acres CDP, Florida	40,585	59%
Lochmoor Waterway Estates CDP, Florida	2,551	37%
Matlacha CDP, Florida	433	48%
McGregor CDP, Florida	3,964	37%
North Fort Myers CDP, Florida	21,903	58%
Olga CDP, Florida	988	40%

Census Places	Total Households	% Below ALICE Threshold
Page Park CDP, Florida	316	89%
Palmona Park CDP, Florida	258	100%
Pine Island Center CDP, Florida	694	56%
Pine Manor CDP, Florida	1,155	90%
Pineland CDP, Florida	183	38%
Punta Rassa CDP, Florida	796	33%
San Carlos Park CDP, Florida	6,452	42%
Sanibel city, Florida	3,309	31%
St. James City CDP, Florida	1,852	51%
Suncoast Estates CDP, Florida	1,856	82%
Three Oaks CDP, Florida	2,061	27%
Tice CDP, Florida	1,670	71%
Verandah CDP, Florida	926	26%
Villas CDP, Florida	6,917	67%
Whiskey Creek CDP, Florida	2,335	36%

Source: United Way ALICE, 2023

Housing

Lee County has a higher percentage of homeowners compared to the state (74.0% vs. 67.3%). 25.7 percent of homes in Lee County are vacant. According to the U.S. Census Bureau, a vacant housing unit is a dwelling that is not occupied at the time of the census, unless the occupants are only temporarily absent. This includes units that are for rent, for sale, or held for seasonal, recreational, or occasional use. The median value of housing is slightly higher in Lee County than the state average (\$326,300 vs. \$325,000).

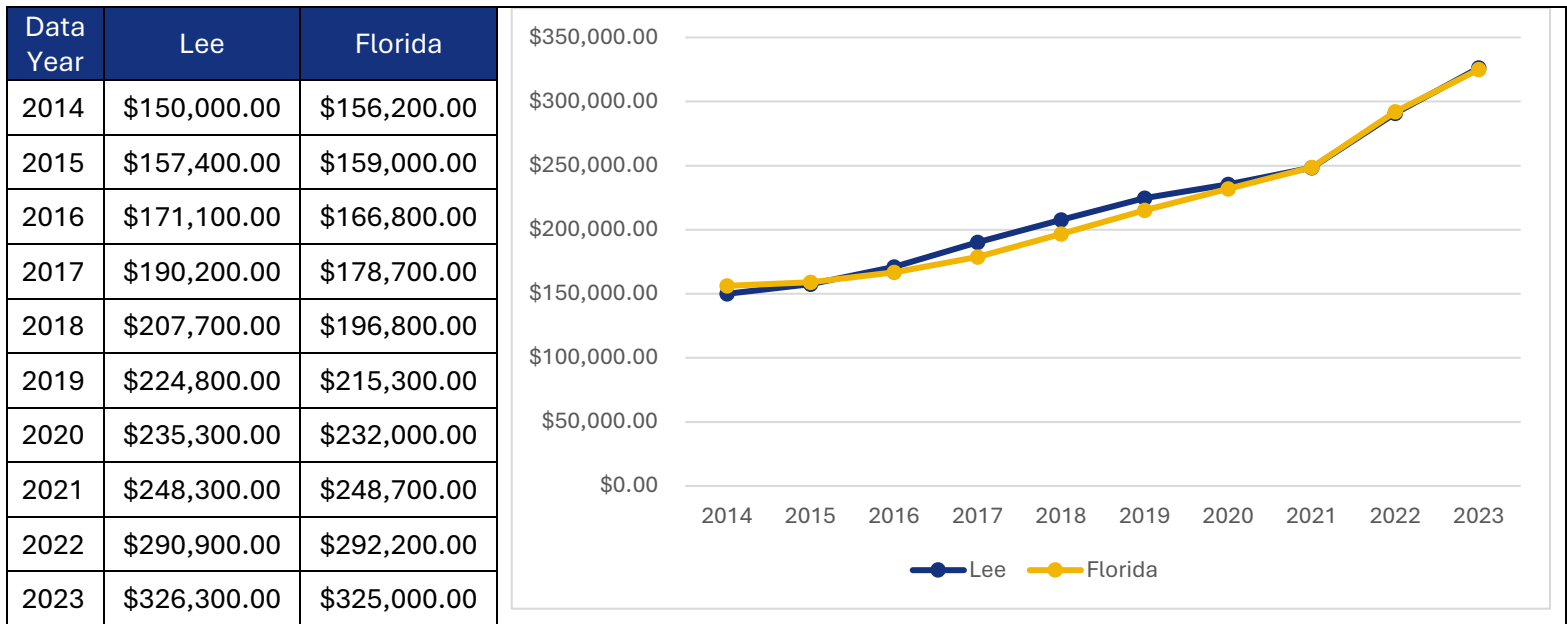
Exhibit D26: Housing Occupancy, Lee County and Florida, 2019-2023

	Lee	Florida
Occupied housing units (%)	74.3%	84.8%
Owner-occupied (%)	74.0%	67.3%
Household size owner-occupied unit (people)	2.4	2.53
Renter-occupied (%)	26.0%	32.7%
Household size renter-occupied unit (people)	2.56	2.46
Occupying mobile home (%)	9.2%	8.2%
Occupying boat, RV, Van, etc. (%)	0.2%	0.2%
Median Value of owner-occupied units	\$326,300	\$325,000
Vacant housing (%)	25.7%	15.2%
Homeowner vacancy (%)	1.8%	1.5%
Rental vacancy (%)	10.0%	7.6%

Source: United States Census Bureau, Table DP04 Selected Housing Characteristics

Since 2014, the median housing values have increased from \$150,000 to \$326,300 in Lee County. The houses in Lee County have closely mirrored the median housing value for the state of Florida.

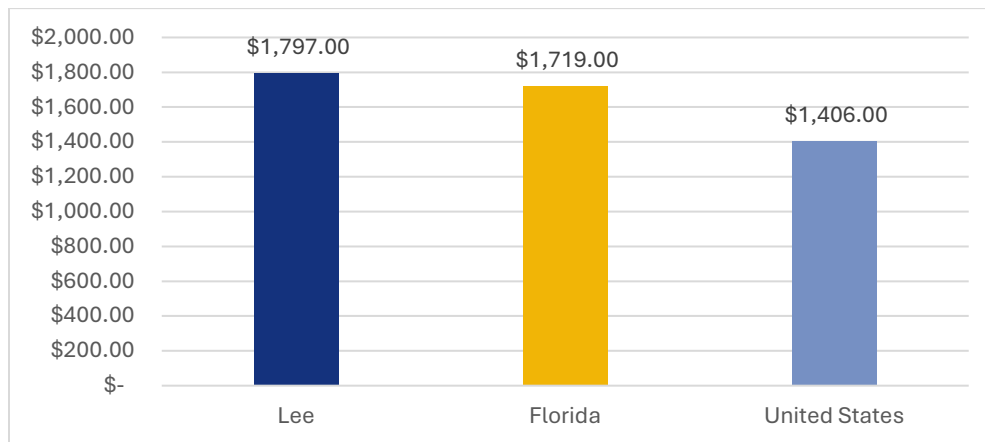
Exhibit D27: Median Owner-Occupied Housing Unit Value, Lee County and Florida, 2014-2023



Source: United States Census Bureau, American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates, Table DP04

Rental costs can be a barrier for people who want to live in a particular area. Lee County has a higher median gross rent when compared to Florida and the United States in 2023.

Exhibit D28: Median Cost Gross Rent, Lee County, Florida, United States, 2023

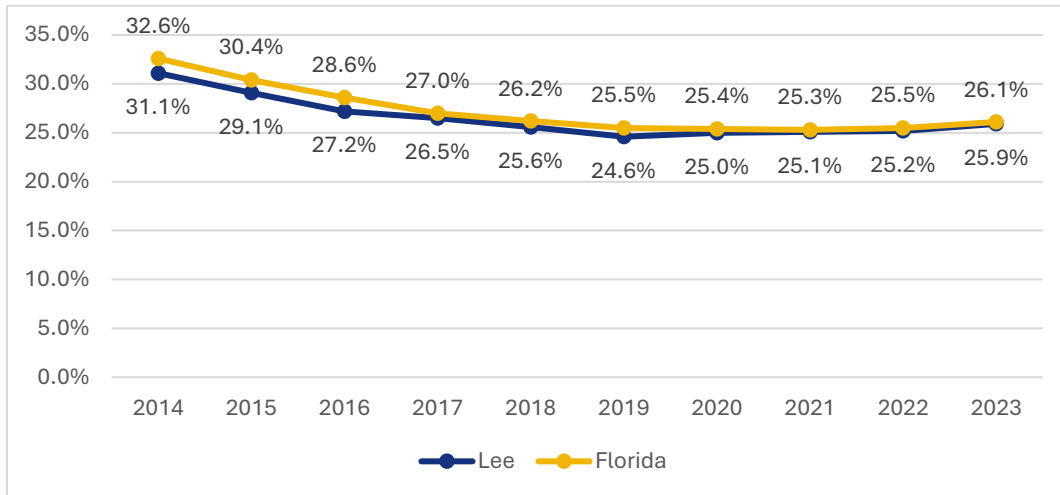


Source: US Census, American Community Survey, B25064

Housing cost-burdened households, as defined by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, are those that pay more than 30 percent of their income for housing. Housing includes a mortgage or rent, utilities, and basic necessities for living. Between 2014 and 2019, the percentage of owner-occupied households who were considered housing burdened declined; however, they increased between 2021 and 2023. In 2023, 25.9 percent of owner-occupied

households in Lee County were paying more than 30 percent of their household income for housing, compared to 26.1 percent for the state of Florida.

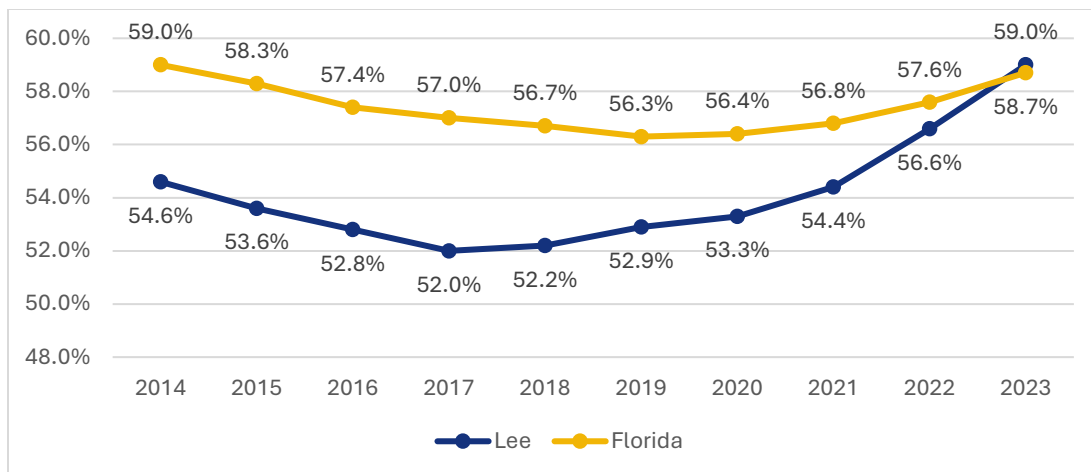
Exhibit D29: Owner-Occupied Households with Monthly Housing Costs of 30% or More of Household Income, Percentage of Owner-Occupied Households, Lee County and Florida. 2014-2023



Source: United States Census Bureau, American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates, Table S2703

Exhibit D30 shows the percentage of households who rent and are considered to have a housing cost burden in Lee County and Florida. The percentage of households that rent and pay more than 30 percent of their income in rent increased significantly between 2017 and 2023 (52% 2017, 59% 2023). When comparing housing cost burden between those who own a house versus those renting in Lee County, renters have a considerably higher percentage of being considered housing cost burdened (in 2023, 59% vs 25.9%).

Exhibit D30: Renter-Occupied Housing Units with Gross Rent Costing 30% or More of Household Income, Percentage of Renter-Occupied Households, Lee County and Florida, 2014-2023



Source: United States Census Bureau, American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates, Table DP04

Settings and Systems



Source: Photo courtesy of NCH

This section of the Community Health Assessment (CHA) for Lee County provides an overview of the various settings and systems that influence the health of our community. This includes an examination of the healthcare infrastructure, food insecurity, transportation, built environment, and other settings where individuals live, learn, work, and receive care. Understanding the capacity, accessibility, quality, and interconnectedness of these settings and systems is crucial for identifying strengths, gaps, and opportunities for collaboration to improve health service delivery. This will promote health in various environments and foster a more integrated and responsive health ecosystem for all residents of Lee County.

Access to Health Care

Lee County has been designated as a Medically Underserved Area (MUA) for its low-income and migrant farmworker populations. Any area with a score of 62 or lower on the Index of Medical Underservice is considered medically underserved. The areas with the lowest numbers are those that are identified as having the greatest need. Lee County scored 53.5.

Areas in Lee County have been designated as Health Professional Shortage Areas (HPSAs) for primary care, dental health, and behavioral health—the HPSA designation scores counties from

one to twenty-six, with higher scores indicating greater levels of need. In primary care, the low-income population in Lee County scored 14 out of 26. For dental health, the low-income population in Lee County scored 15 out of 26. The Circuit 20 catchment area, which includes several counties (Charlotte, Collier, Glades, and Hendry) along with Lee County, received a score of 16 out of 26 for mental health among the low-income population.

Access to healthcare is a key factor in achieving a healthy community and is a primary goal of health policy in Florida. Lee County has fewer licensed dentists, pediatricians, obstetrician-gynecologists, and behavioral and mental health professionals than the state average. Lee County has more medical doctors and family practice physicians than the state average. For every type of hospital, nursing home, and other facility beds reviewed, Lee County has fewer than the state average. Lee County has lower-than-average spending per person on the County Health Department compared to the state average.

Exhibit SS1: Health Resource Availability, Lee County and Florida

	Lee County			Florida
	Number	Rate per 100,000	Quartile**	Rate per 100,000
Providers, Fiscal Year 2022-2023*				
Licensed dentists	407	49.4	3	61.5
Medical doctors (MD, physicians)	2,272	275.9	4	261.2
Pediatricians	99	12.0	n/a	16.5
Family practice physicians	127	15.4	3	13.3
Obstetrician Gynecologist (OB/Gyn)	68	8.3	n/a	8.6
Behavioral/mental health professionals	768	93.3	2	133.2
Facilities, 2023				
Hospital beds	2,188	265.7	2	304.5
Acute beds	1,707	207.3	2	244.7
Specialty beds	481	58.4	n/a	59.7
Nursing home beds	2,122	257.7	1	366.3
Adult psychiatric beds (inpatient beds)	95	11.5	n/a	18.3
Child and adolescent psychiatric beds (inpatient beds)	0	0.0	n/a	3.2
County Health Department				
County health department full-time employees, fiscal year 2022-2023	246	29.9	1	40.0
County health department expenditures, fiscal year 2021-2022	18,985,483	\$23.50	1	\$39.30

Sources: Florida Department of Health, Division of Medical Quality Assurance; Florida Agency for Health Care Administration (AHCA); Florida Department of Health

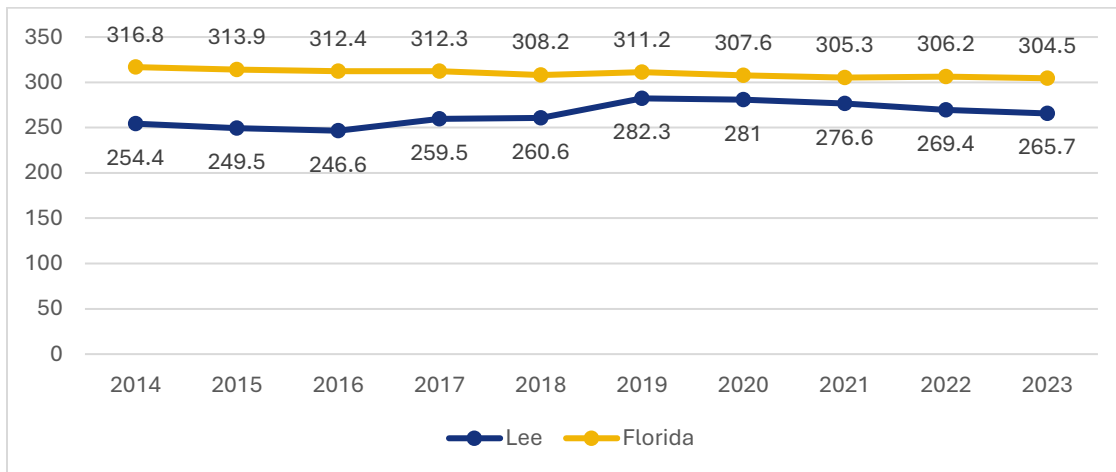
*Number of licensed providers does not necessarily equal the number of practicing providers. These numbers may include providers who work in another county, only work part-time, or retired.

2025 Lee County Community Health Assessment: Settings and Systems

**County Compared to other Florida counties. The lowest quartile equals the lowest number. For resource availability, the lowest number is generally considered the worst ranking. Quartile information is provided when at least 51 counties rates greater than zero.

Between 2014 and 2023, Lee County consistently had fewer hospital beds per 100,000 people than the state average (265.7 Lee, 304.5 Florida, 2023).

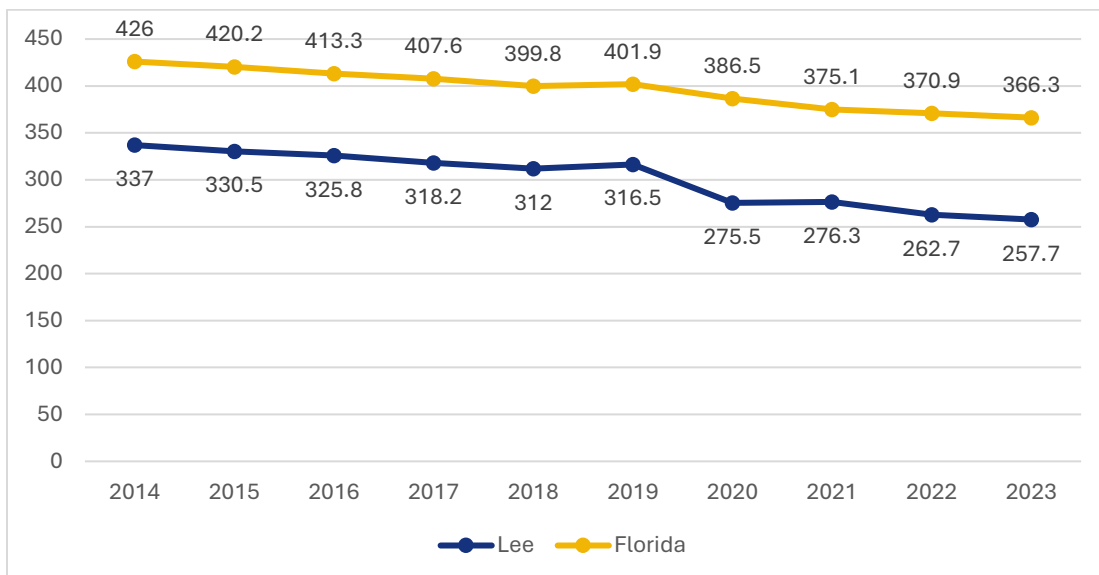
Exhibit SS2: Hospital Beds, Rate per 100,000 Population, Lee County and Florida, 2014-2023



Source: Florida Agency for Health Care Administration

Throughout the past decade, Lee County had significantly fewer nursing home beds per population than the average for the State of Florida (257.7 Lee, 366.3 Florida, 2023).

Exhibit SS3: Nursing Home Beds, Rate per 100,000 Population, Lee County and Florida, 2014-2023



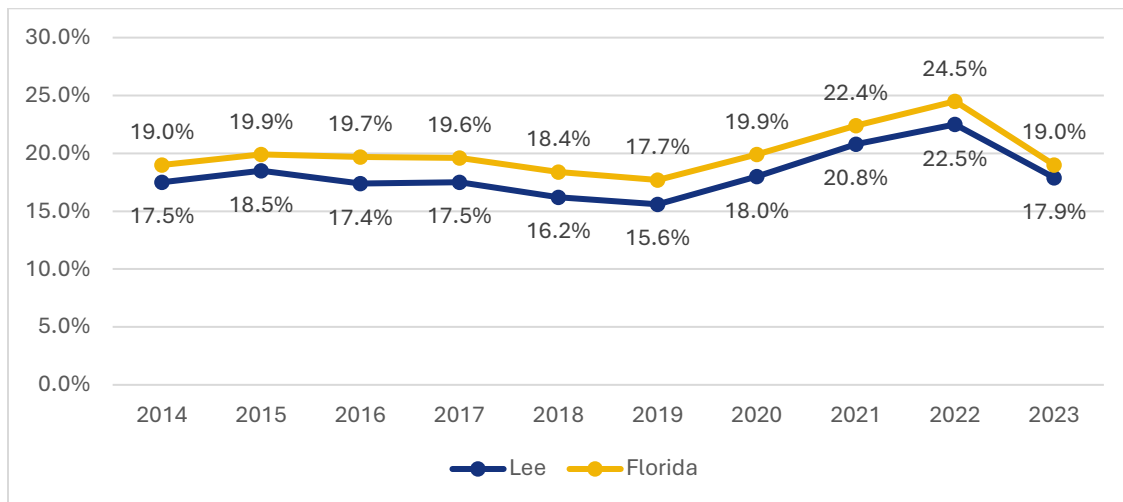
Source: Florida Agency for Health Care Administration

Health Insurance Coverage

Medicaid provides medical coverage to low-income individuals and families. The state and federal governments share the costs of the Medicaid program. Medicaid services in Florida are administered by the Agency for Health Care Administration (AHCA). About half of the recipients are children or adolescents under the age of 21. While children are the largest category of beneficiaries, most of the costs arise from providing services to seniors, especially nursing home care, as well as to people with disabilities who have significant medical expenses.

There are four categories of Medicaid eligibility for adults in Florida, which include low-income families, pregnant women, emergency medical assistance for non-citizens, and Medicaid for the elderly and disabled. Eligibility for each of those programs is based on specific income criteria. Medicaid enrollment rates in Lee County are lower than the state rates.

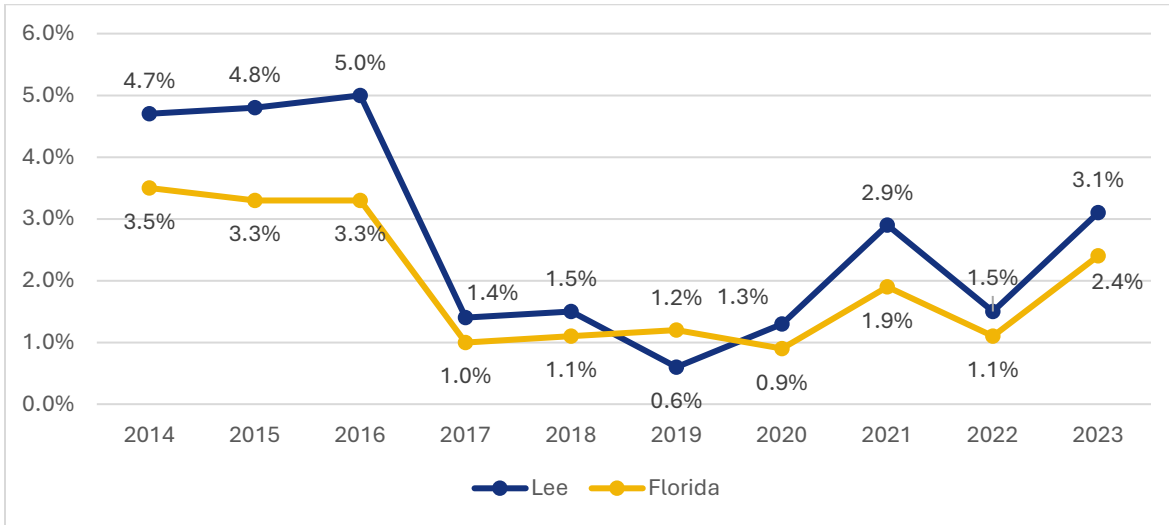
Exhibit SS4: Monthly Medicaid Enrollment, Percent of Population, Lee County and Florida, 2014-2023



Source: Florida Agency for Health Care Administration

Florida KidCare is the state-funded children's health insurance program for those who are uninsured from birth to age 19 and meet income and eligibility requirements. Three state agencies and the Florida Health Kids Corporation work together to form KidCare. The four components of Florida KidCare are: Medicaid, Florida Health Kids, Medikids, and Children's Medical Services (CMS) Network. Medicaid is for children from birth to 19. Florida Health Kids is for children ages 5 to 18 who are ineligible for Medicaid or CMS Network (families pay a monthly premium, based on their income). Medikids for children ages 1 to 4 (families pay a monthly premium, based on their income). The CMS Network is for children with special healthcare needs up to 200% of the Federal Poverty Level. Lee County has a slightly higher percentage of children aged 1-4 enrolled in MediKids than the state as a whole (3.1% Lee, 2.4% Florida, 2023).

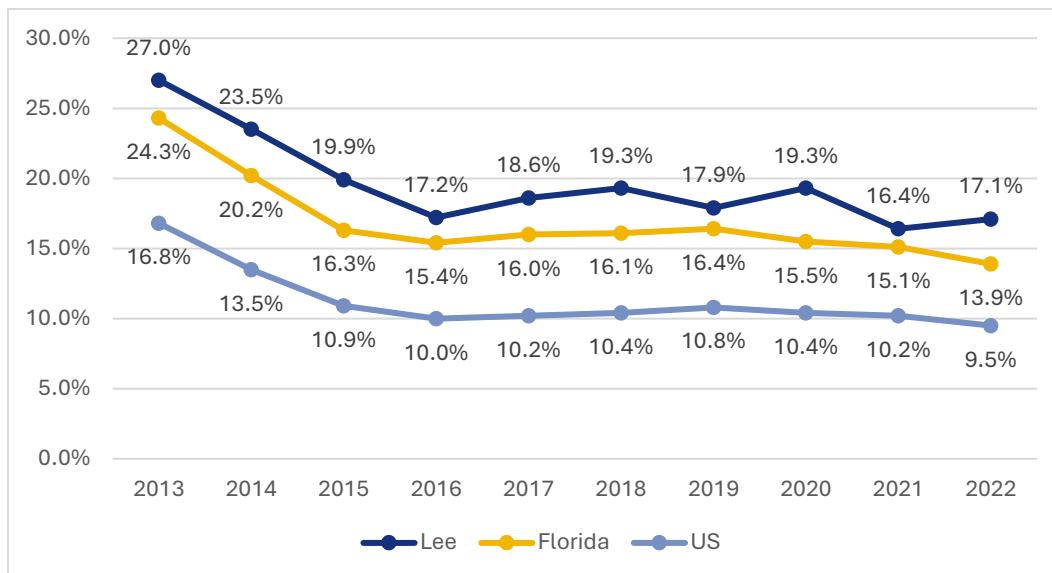
Exhibit SS5: Children Covered by MediKids (Aged 1-4), Percentage of Population Aged 1-4, Lee County and Florida, 2014-2023



Source: Florida Agency for Health Care Administration

Between 2013 and 2016, Lee County, Florida, and the United States started to see a decline in the percentage of the population who were uninsured. Lee County consistently has a higher percentage of people under the age of 65 who are uninsured. It is estimated that in 2022, 17.1 percent of Lee County residents under the age of 65 were without insurance. The following exhibits break out the population who are uninsured by age, sex, race and ethnicity, educational attainment, and income.

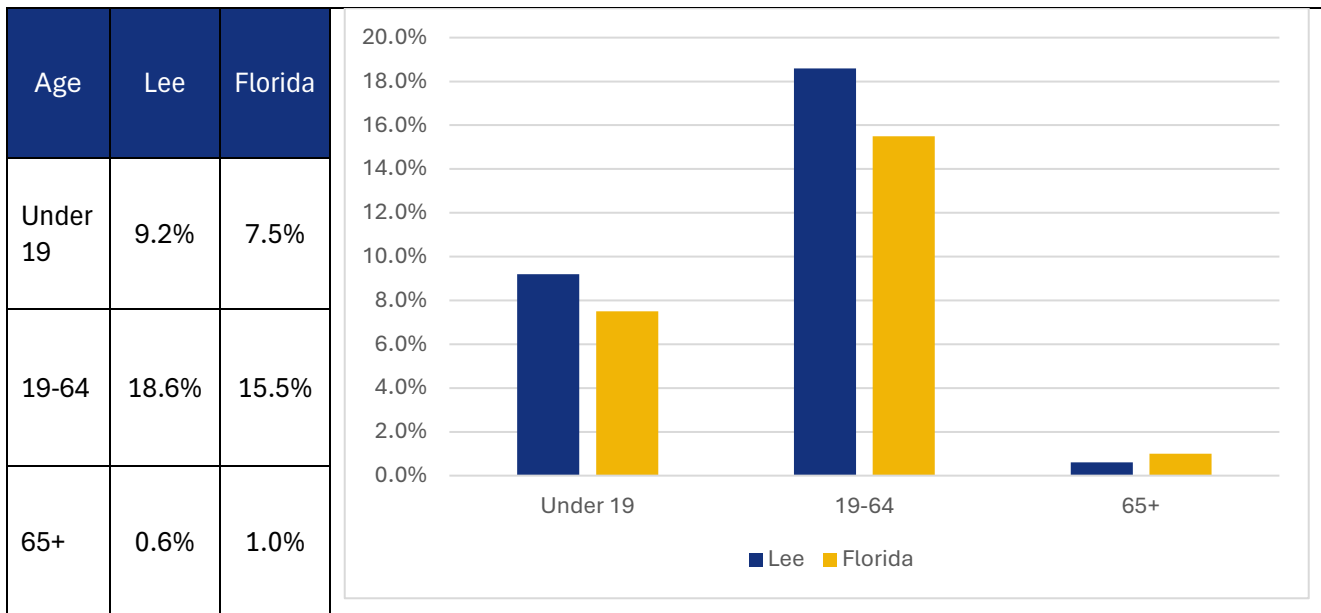
Exhibit SS6: Percentage of the Population Under 65 Years of Age who are Uninsured, Lee County, Florida, United States, 2013-2022



Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Small Area Health Insurance Estimates

In 2023, for the population under 19 years of age in Lee County, 9.2 percent were uninsured compared with 7.5 percent in Florida. Of the core working population 19-64 years of age, in Lee County, 18.6 percent were without health insurance compared with 15.5 percent in the state of Florida, a difference of 3.1 percent. For the population 65 years of age and older in Lee County, only 0.6 percent were without health insurance, while in Florida, only 1.0 percent lacked insurance. This very low proportion of the uninsured is due to the “Medicare effect”; currently, those 65 years of age and above are eligible for Medicare.

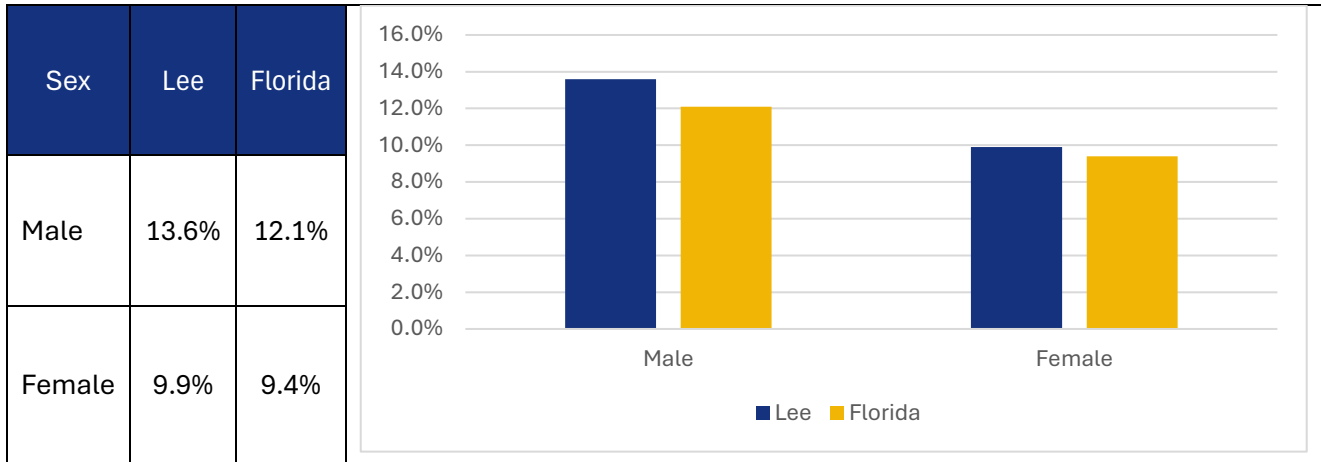
Exhibit SS7: Percentage of Uninsured by Age, Percentage of Civilian Noninstitutionalized Population, Lee County and Florida, 2023



Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2023 American Community Survey 1-Year Estimates, Table S2701

Compared to females, males in Lee County and in Florida have a higher percentage of those who are uninsured (13.6% male, 9.9% female, Lee 2023). For both males and females, the percentage of uninsured is a little higher in Lee County than the state average. Please note that this data includes both those who are over and under the age of 65.

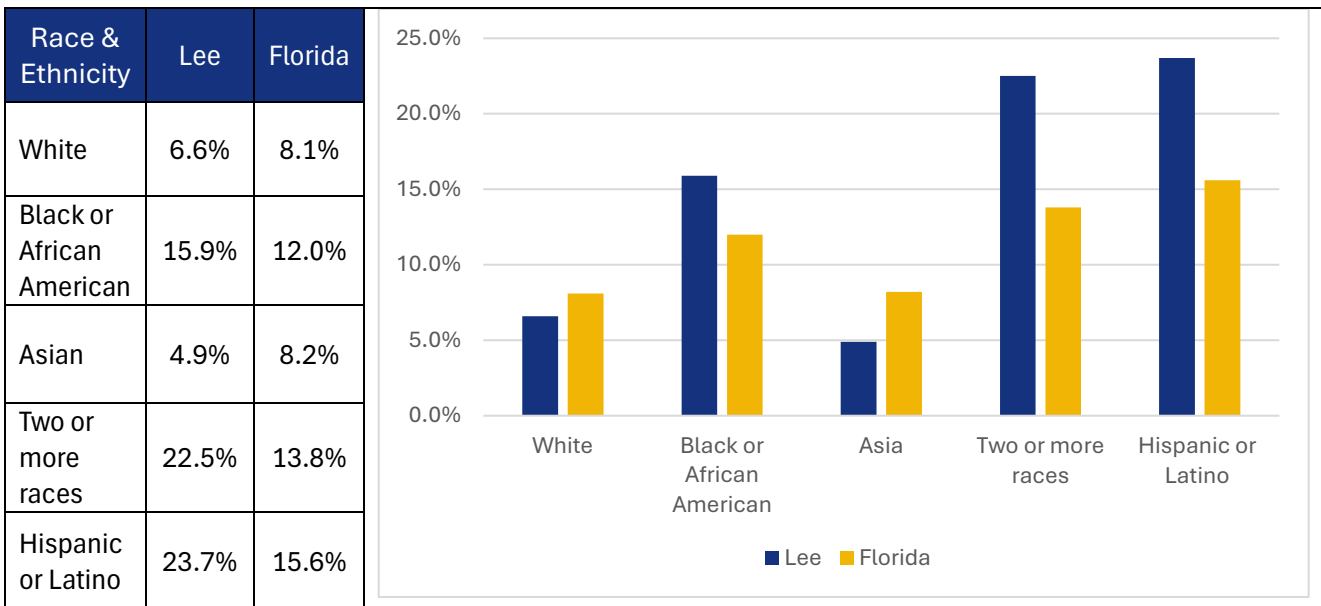
Exhibit SS8: Percentage of Uninsured by Sex, Percentage of Civilian Noninstitutionalized Population, Lee County and Florida, 2023



Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2023 American Community Survey 1-Year Estimates, Table S2701

For the black, Hispanic, and multiracial population in Lee County, the percentage of uninsured is greater than the average for the state of Florida. The Hispanic or Latino population had the highest percentage of those who are uninsured when compared to other races and ethnicities; that percentage is significantly higher than the state average (23.7% Lee, 15.6% Florida, 2023).

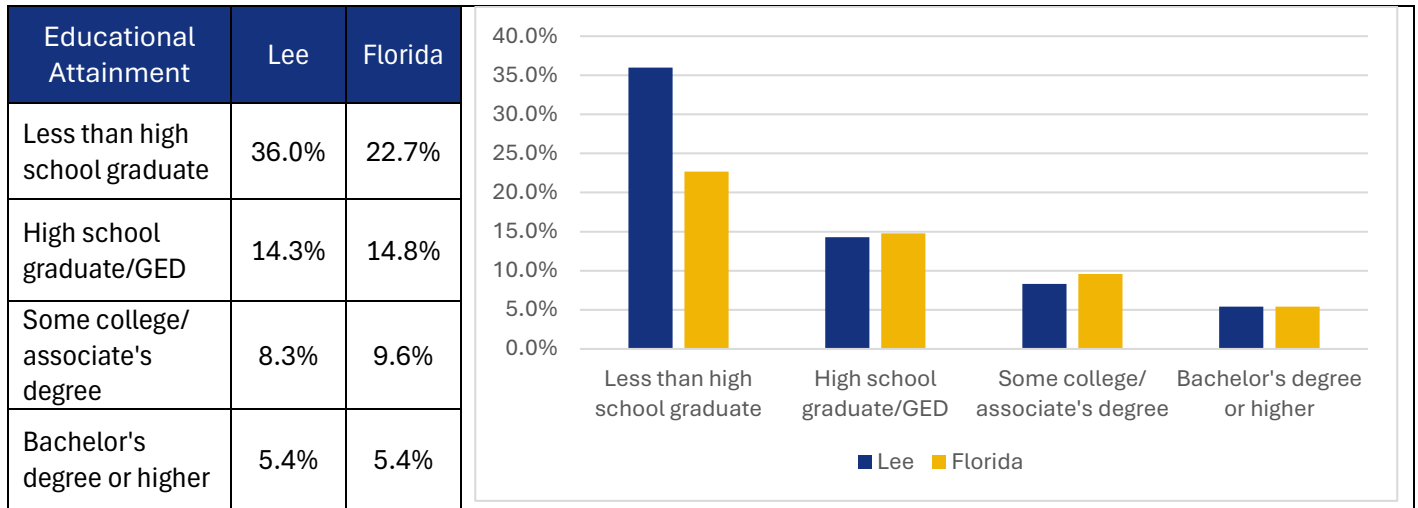
Exhibit SS9: Percentage of Uninsured by Race and Ethnicity, Percentage of Civilian Noninstitutionalized Population, Lee County and Florida, 2023



Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2023 American Community Survey 1-Year Estimates, Table S2701

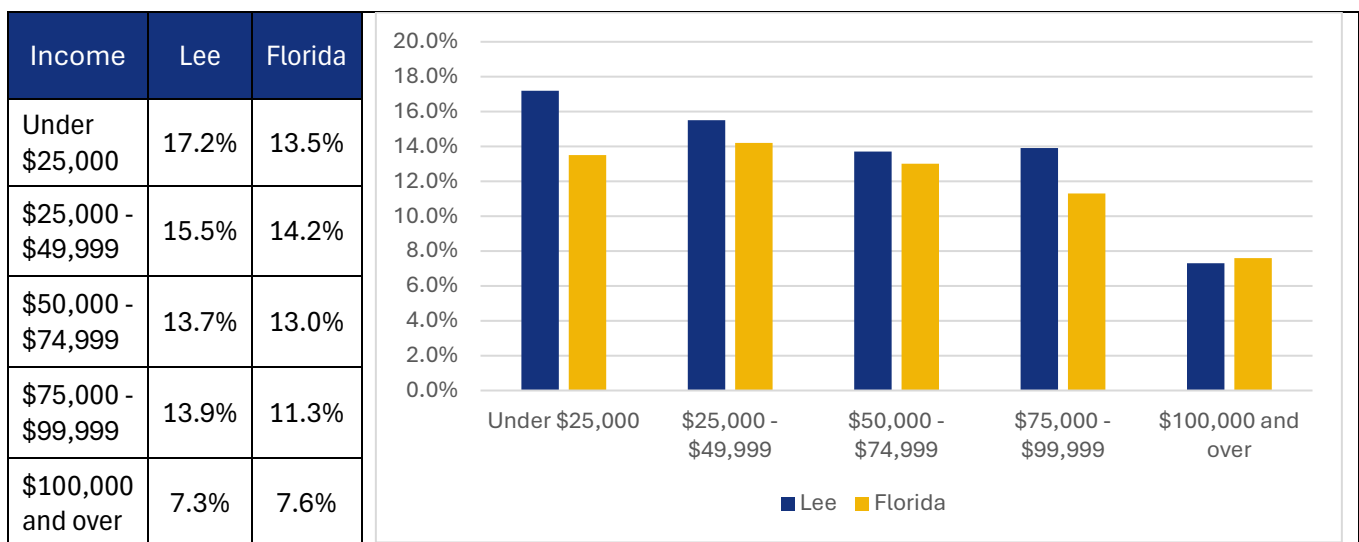
For both Lee County and Florida, as the educational level increases, the percentage of individuals in that group who are uninsured decreases. In Lee County, 36 percent of those with less than a high school diploma were uninsured compared to only 5.4 percent of those who have a bachelor's degree or higher.

Exhibit SS10: Percentage of Population 26 Years and Older Uninsured by Educational Attainment, Percentage of Civilian Noninstitutionalized Population, Lee County and Florida, 2023



In Lee County, those with an income under \$25,000 are the most likely to be uninsured (17.2% Lee, 13.5% Florida, 2023). Those with household incomes over \$100,000 are the least likely to be uninsured (7.3% Lee, 7.6% Florida, 2023).

Exhibit SS11: Percentage of Uninsured by Household Income (in 2023 Inflation-Adjusted Dollars), Percentage of Civilian Noninstitutionalized Population, Lee County and Florida, 2023





Source: Photo courtesy of NCH

Accessing the Emergency Room

Lee County Residents made 243,981 visits to hospitals in 2023 that did not result in an inpatient admission. Private insurance was the number one payer source, representing 29.1 percent of the visits; Medicaid was second with 28.6 percent. The largest number of visits was made to the four Lee Health hospitals (a total of 74.7% of the visits). Lehigh Regional Medical Center, the other hospital in the county, represented 7.9 percent of the visits. Charlotte and Collier County hospitals were the most frequently visited outside of Lee County.

Exhibit SS12: Emergency Room Visits by Lee County Residents, Payer Source, 2023

Hospitals	Medicaid	Medicare	No charge /Charity	Other	Private, incl. HMO	Self-Pay	Total
Healthpark Medical Center	3,3108	7,640	1,131	1,766	17,166	3,730	64,541
Lee Memorial Hospital	8,665	13,066	2,237	2,694	12,654	5,090	44,406
Gulf Coast Hospital	6,885	13,165	1,511	2,709	12,976	3,040	40,286
Cape Coral Hospital	4,973	12,335	828	2,445	10,037	2,363	32,981
Lehigh Regional Medical Center	7,444	2,489		254	5,690	3,504	19,381
HCA Fawcett	3,325	3,407	358	673	4,769	1,109	13,641
NCH Baker Hospital	884	4,288		507	1,055	824	7,558
Advent Health Port Charlotte	1,392	1,821	1	336	2,575	661	6,786
NCH North Hospital	1,372	2,134		317	837	800	5,460
Physicians Regional Medical Center - Pine Ridge	93	543		73	385	137	1,231
Charlotte Regional Medical Center	77	93		62	155	98	485
Physicians Regional Medical Center - Collier Blvd	66	57		49	138	62	372
Sarasota Memorial Hospital	52	53	9	27	94	51	286
Anne Bates Leach Eye Hospital	25	84		6	102	35	252
All Other Hospitals	1,458	1,078	77	386	2,385	931	6,315
Grand Total	69,819	62,253	6,152	12,304	71,018	22,435	243,981

Source: AHCA via Broward Regional Health Planning Council Hospital Inpatient and Emergency Department Analytical System. The AHCA ED data contains records for all ED visits for which the severity of the visits did not result in an inpatient admission. Includes visits by Lee County residents to the ED of any hospital in Florida.

Blank spots represent where no data was collected

*Visits are indicative of Lee County residents only, not all visits for each facility

Exhibit SS13 shows the number of emergency room visits to the most visited hospitals by Lee County residents by city for 2023. The cities were determined based on zip codes. The hospitals that residents were most likely to visit varied greatly based on the city.

Exhibit SS13: Emergency Room Visits by Lee County Residents by City, 2023

City	Healthpark Medical Center	Lee Memorial Hospital	Gulf Coast Hospital	Cape Coral Hospital	Lehigh Regional Medical Center	HCA Fawcett	NCH-Baker	Advent Health Port Charlotte	NCH - North Naples	Physicians Regional-Pine Ridge	All Other Hospitals	Total
Alva	447	351	656	39	293	17	14	17	8	7	103	1952
Boca Grande	0	0	3	0	0	0	2	5	1	0	119	130
Bokeelia	143	38	40	355	3	443	1	28	2	0	59	1112
Bonita Springs	1268	5449	606	32	23	10	4440	6	3722	650	364	16570
Cape Coral	12507	2575	3064	24573	172	11454	170	3986	136	61	2024	60722
Captiva	10	3	2	3	2	0	1	0	0	0	4	25
Estero	658	3968	730	20	16	5	971	3	322	100	200	6993
Fort Myers	29545	23502	21324	1413	1248	546	1396	322	739	221	2484	82740
Fort Myers Beach	481	94	67	9	3	9	61	2	37	9	60	832
Lehigh Acres	16619	3622	12269	445	17498	147	433	96	452	155	1628	53364
North Fort Myers	2472	4726	1403	5783	122	729	58	2308	35	27	583	18246
Pine Island	3	0	2	7	0	7	0	2	0	0	2	23
Saint James City	56	21	42	286	0	255	2	11	1	1	36	711
Sanibel	320	30	56	8	0	9	9	0	5	0	41	478
Tice	12	27	22	8	1	10	0	0	0	0	3	83
Grand Total	64541	44406	40286	32981	19381	13641	7558	6786	5460	1231	7710	243981

Source: AHCA via Broward Regional Health Planning Council Hospital Inpatient and Emergency Department Analytical System

Ambulatory Care-Sensitive conditions, such as asthma, diabetes, or dehydration, are conditions that can lead to hospitalization if timely and effective ambulatory care is not provided. Timely and effective ambulatory care can decrease hospitalizations by preventing the onset of an illness or condition, controlling an acute episode of an illness, or managing a chronic disease or condition.

High rates of Ambulatory Care-Sensitive hospitalizations in a community may be an indicator of a lack of or failure of prevention efforts, a primary care resource shortage, poor performance of primary healthcare delivery systems, or other factors that create barriers to obtaining timely and effective care. The Florida Department of Health has released an Ambulatory Sensitive Conditions Profile for Preventable Hospitalizations for individuals under 65 years of age, based on 2023 data, for each county. Lee County has a lower rate of preventable hospitalizations than the state average (803.3 Lee, 838.2 Florida). Hospitalizations from Ambulatory Care Sensitive Conditions (ACSCs) are hospital admissions that could have been avoided through access to high-quality outpatient care and serve as a key tool for community health needs assessments (CHNA). All data in the table are for those under the age of 65 unless indicated.

Exhibit SS14: Ambulatory Sensitive Conditions for Preventable Hospitalizations Under 65, Lee County and Florida, 2023

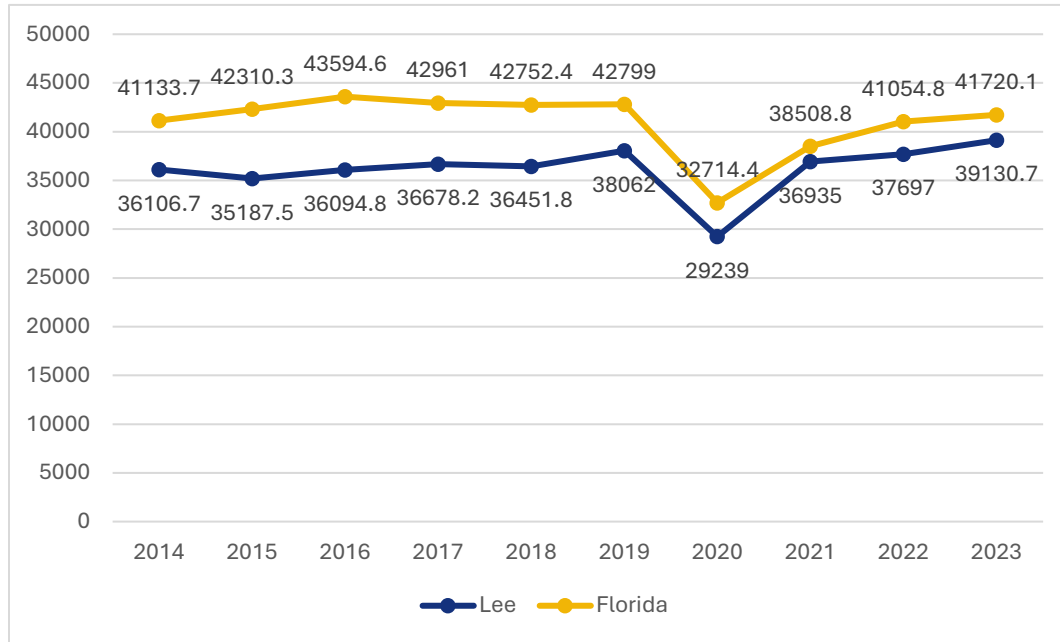
	County Count	County Rate	County Quartile	State Rate
All Conditions	4,678	803.3	2	838.2
Angina	30	5.2	2	6.0
Asthma	292	50.1	3	47.3
Cellulitis	402	69.0	2	66.9
Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease	339	58.2	2	59.0
Congestive Heart Failure	392	67.3	1	85.8
Convulsions (Aged 0-5 Years)	19	3.3	2	4.0
Convulsions (Aged 6 Years and Older)	130	16.7	1	24.7
Grand Mal and Other Epileptic Conditions	325	55.8	1	81.4
Dehydration – Volume Depletion	402	69.0	4	40.9
Dental Conditions	58	10.0	2	9.9
Diabetes	741	127.2	2	138.5
Severe Ear, Nose, and Throat Infections	43	7.4	2	11.0
Hypertension	6	1.0	n/a	3.4
Gastroenteritis	226	38.8	3	34.6
Hypoglycemia	6	1.0	n/a	1.7
Kidney/Urinary Infection	188	32.3	4	20.3
Nutritional Deficiencies	681	116.9	2	138.7
Bacterial Pneumonia	454	78.0	3	70.4
Skin Grafts with Cellulitis	53	9.1	4	5.9
Pelvic Inflammatory Disease	37	12.7	3	10.8

Source: Florida Agency for Health Care Administration (AHCA)

Quartile is a comparison of the county to the other 67 counties in Florida. 1 indicates the best to 4 which is the worst.

Lee County residents consistently have fewer emergency department visits per 100,000 than the state average. The rates follow similar trends to those of the state.

Exhibit SS15: Age-Adjusted Emergency Department Visits, Rate per 100,000 Population, Lee County and Florida, 2014-2023



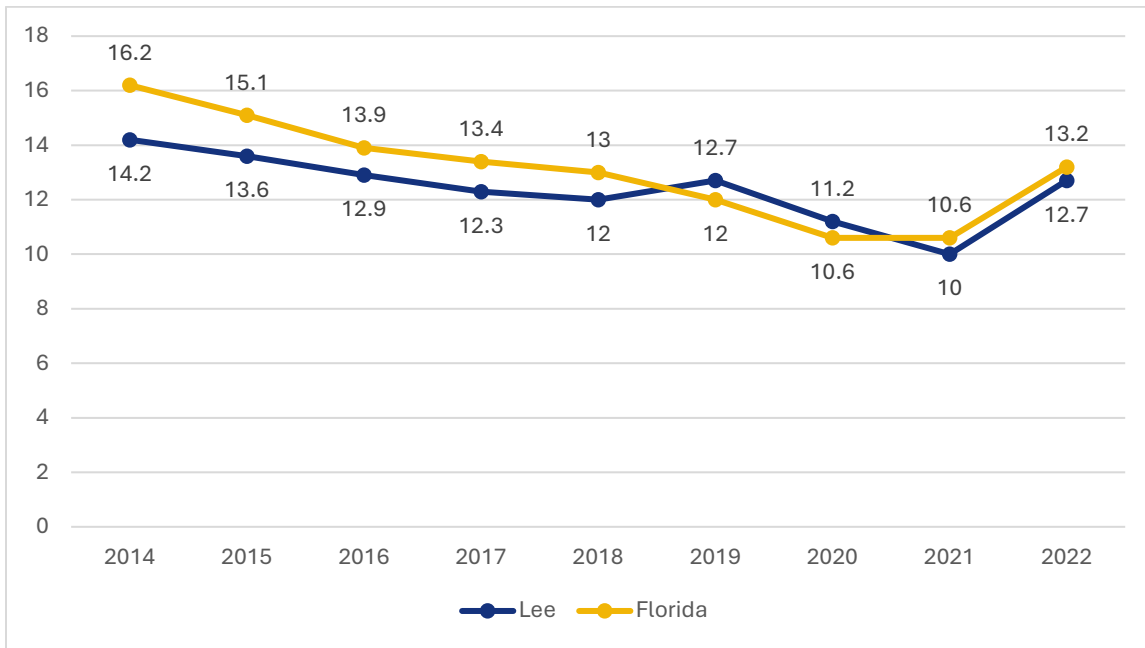
Source: Florida Agency for Health Care Administration (AHCA)

Food Insecurity

In 2023, 107,680 people in Lee County were food insecure. It was estimated that 38 percent of food-insecure individuals were above the SNAP and other nutrition programs threshold, while 62 percent were below the SNAP threshold, which is 200 percent of the poverty level. The average meal cost in Lee County is \$3.94, which is 19 cents higher than the Florida average, \$4.13. The annual food budget shortfall for the county was \$80,349,000; this is the total annualized additional dollar amount that food-insecure individuals report needing, on average, to purchase just enough food to meet their food needs.

After several years of falling, the food insecurity rate for Lee County and Florida increased between 2021 and 2022. The rate for Lee County is similar to the state rate (12.7% Lee, 13.2% Florida, 2022).

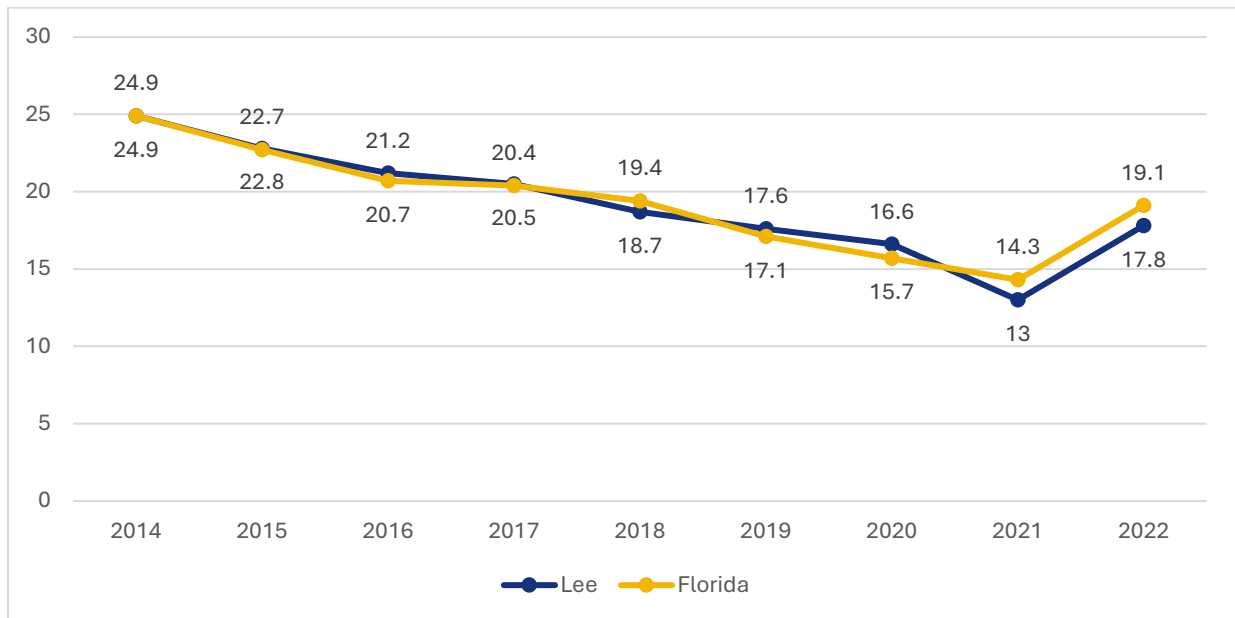
Exhibit SS16: Food Insecurity Rate, Percentage of Population, Lee County and Florida, 2014-2022



Source: Feeding America, Map the Meal Gap

The number of children experiencing food insecurity has been decreasing since 2014; however, the percentage increased between 2021 and 2022. When compared to the state, Lee County has had a similar child food insecurity rate (17.8% Lee, 19.1% Florida, 2022).

Exhibit SS17: Child Food Insecurity Rate, Percentage of Population Under 18, Lee County and Florida, 2014-2022



Source: Feeding America, Map the Meal Gap

Parks and Trails

Lee County offers a wide array of parks, beaches, and trails. There are 46 different types of parks available to Lee County residents and visitors, including regional parks, community parks, neighborhood parks, aquatic parks, and boat parks. Fifteen beaches are also available, attracting visitors from around the globe. Despite these resources, Lee County has a smaller percentage of the population living near a park compared to the Florida average.

Exhibit SS18: Proximity to Park and Trails, Lee County and Florida, 2022

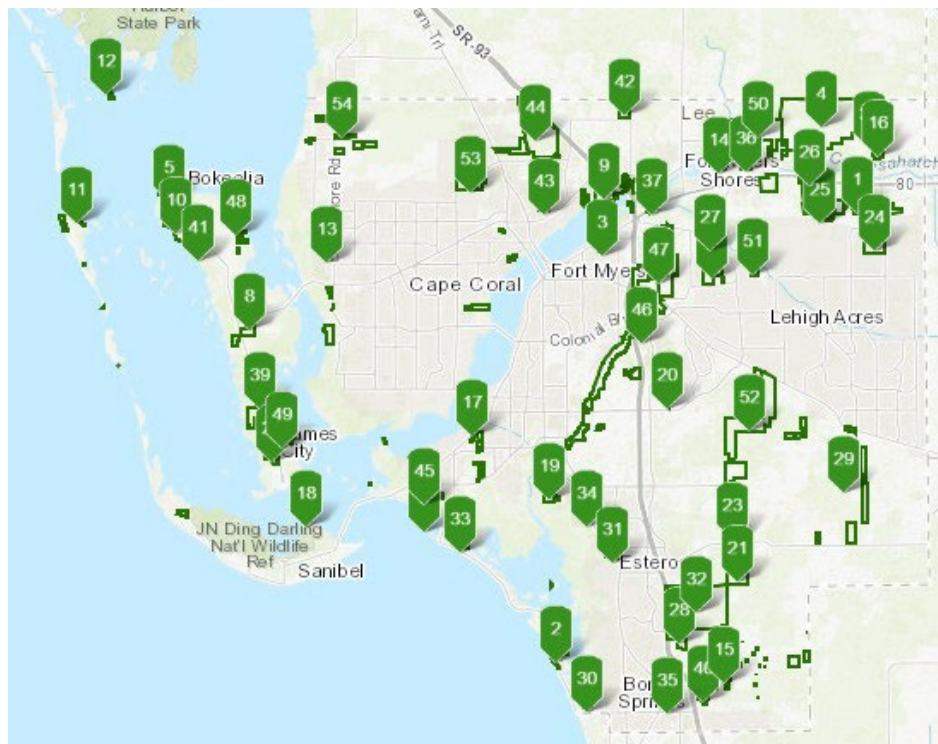
	Lee	Florida
Percent of the population living within a ten-minute walk (1/2 Mile) of a park	26.0%	43.0%
Percent of the population living within a ten-minute walk (1/2 Mile) of an off-street trail system	25.3%	18.8%

Source: Florida Environmental Public Health Tracking

Conservation Lands

Having a larger land area in conservation has a positive impact on health outcomes by improving water and air quality, and providing residents with access to recreation and environmental education opportunities. It also limits urban/sub-urban development to specific areas of the county. According to Conservation 20/20 Lee County, funding obtained from property taxes was used to acquire and manage 31,714.47 acres of preserve land in 52 different locations throughout Lee County. Below is a map of all Conservation 20/20 Lee County Preserves.

Exhibit SS19: Conservation 20/20 Preserve Location Map, Lee County, 2025



Source: Conservation 20/20 Lee County, pulled June 17, 2025

Transportation

According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), high commute times can be linked to adverse health outcomes such as obesity, high blood pressure, heart disease, and poor mental health. Despite having a higher percentage of workers who work from home, Lee County workers have a slightly higher average travel time to work than the state average (29.6 Lee, 28.5 Florida, 2023).

Exhibit SS20: Commuting to Work, Workers 16 Years and Over, Percent of Workers (Aged 16+), Lee County and Florida, 2023

	Lee	Florida
Car, truck, or can - drove alone	69.9%	69.1%
Car, truck, or can - carpooled	8.7%	9.7%
Public transportation (excluding taxicab)	0.6%	1.4%
Walked	1.1%	1.5%
Other means	2.5%	2.5%
Worked from home	17.1%	15.8%
Mean travel time to work (minutes)	29.6	28.5

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2023 American Community Survey 1-Year Estimates, Table DP03

About 95 percent of households in Lee County have at least one vehicle available. A little over 14 percent of households have three or more vehicles.

Exhibit SS21: Cars per Household, Lee County and Florida, 2023

	Lee	Florida
No vehicles available	4.7%	5.8%
1 vehicle available	42.2%	39.1%
2 vehicles available	38.6%	38.3%
3 or more vehicles available	14.5%	16.9%

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2023 American Community Survey 1-Year Estimates, Table DP04

Crime

Lee County has a lower-than-average rate for all crimes and domestic violence when compared to the State of Florida as a whole. The three most common categories of crimes in Lee County are domestic violence, larceny, and burglary.

Exhibit SS22: Crime, Rate per 100,000 Population, 3-Year Rate, Lee County & Florida, 2021-2023

	Lee	Florida	Quartile*
Aggravated Assault	70	103.4	1
Burglary	61.6	94.3	1
Domestic Violence Offenses	300.5	309.1	3
Forcible Sex Offenses	7.7	10.2	1
Larceny	103.7	191.20	1
Motor Vehicle Theft	21.1	46.9	1
Murder	2.5	10.4	1
Robbery	15.3	27.3	2

Source: Florida Department of Law Enforcement (FDLE)

*County compared to other Florida Counties. The lowest quarter equals the lowest number

Health Behaviors



Source: Photo courtesy of the Health Planning Council of Southwest Florida, Inc.

This section of the Community Health Assessment (CHA) for Lee County examines key health behaviors that significantly impact the well-being of our residents. It includes an analysis of nutrition, physical activity, substance use, and preventive care. The section further explores injury mortality, including unintentional injury, unintentional poisoning, and motor vehicle crashes. Additionally, it addresses maternal and infant health, oral health, and mental health and mental disorders. Examining these behaviors is crucial for identifying areas where interventions and prevention efforts can effectively improve our community's health and quality of life.

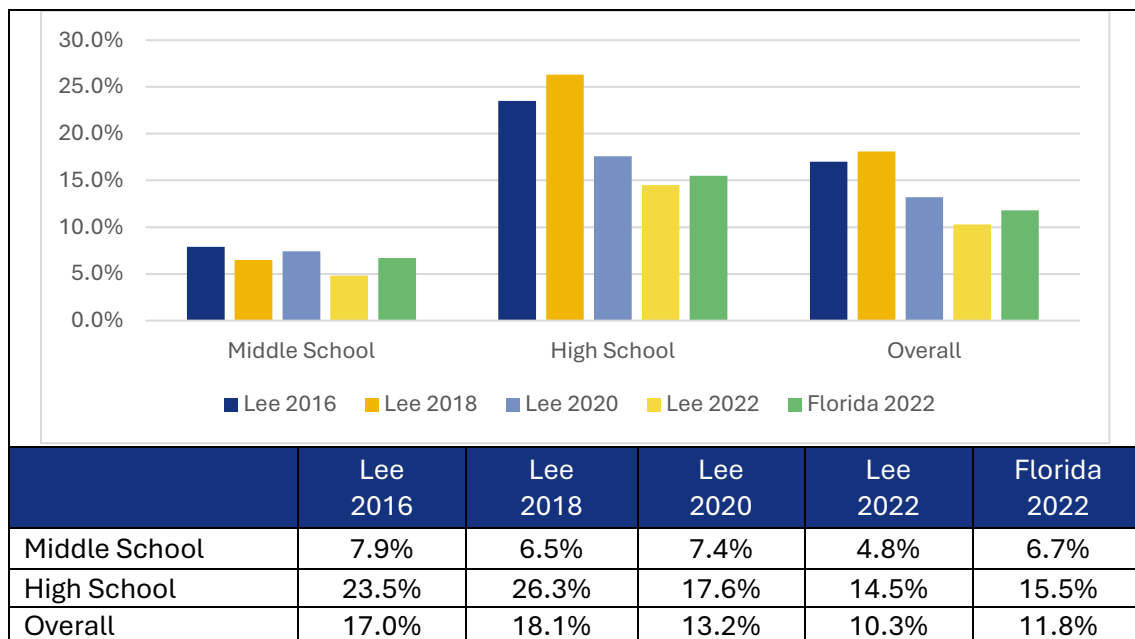
Florida Youth Substance Abuse Survey (FYSAS)

The Florida Youth Substance Abuse Survey (FYSAS) is a collaborative effort between the Florida Departments of Health, Department of Education, Department of Children and Families, Juvenile Justice, and the Governor’s Office of Drug Control. It is based on the “Communities That Care” survey, which measures the prevalence and frequency of drug use, the prevalence and frequency of other antisocial behaviors, and the degree to which risk and protective factors exist that can predict alcohol, tobacco, and other drug use, delinquency, gang involvement, and other problem behaviors in adolescents.

Schools and classrooms are randomly selected, and the survey responses are anonymous. The FYSAS is administered to students in grades 6 through 12 from January through March every year. Lee County did not participate in the 2024 survey; the latest data we have for this county is from 2022. In 2022, Lee County had 1,000 students complete the survey (527 middle school students, 473 high school students).

The percentage of high school students in Lee County who reported consuming alcohol in the past 30 days has decreased significantly over the past 10 years (23.5% 2016 to 15.5% 2022). However, the percentage of middle school students who reported drinking alcohol in the past 30 days while remaining low has not decreased at the same rate; it was 7.9% in 2016 and 6.7% in 2022.

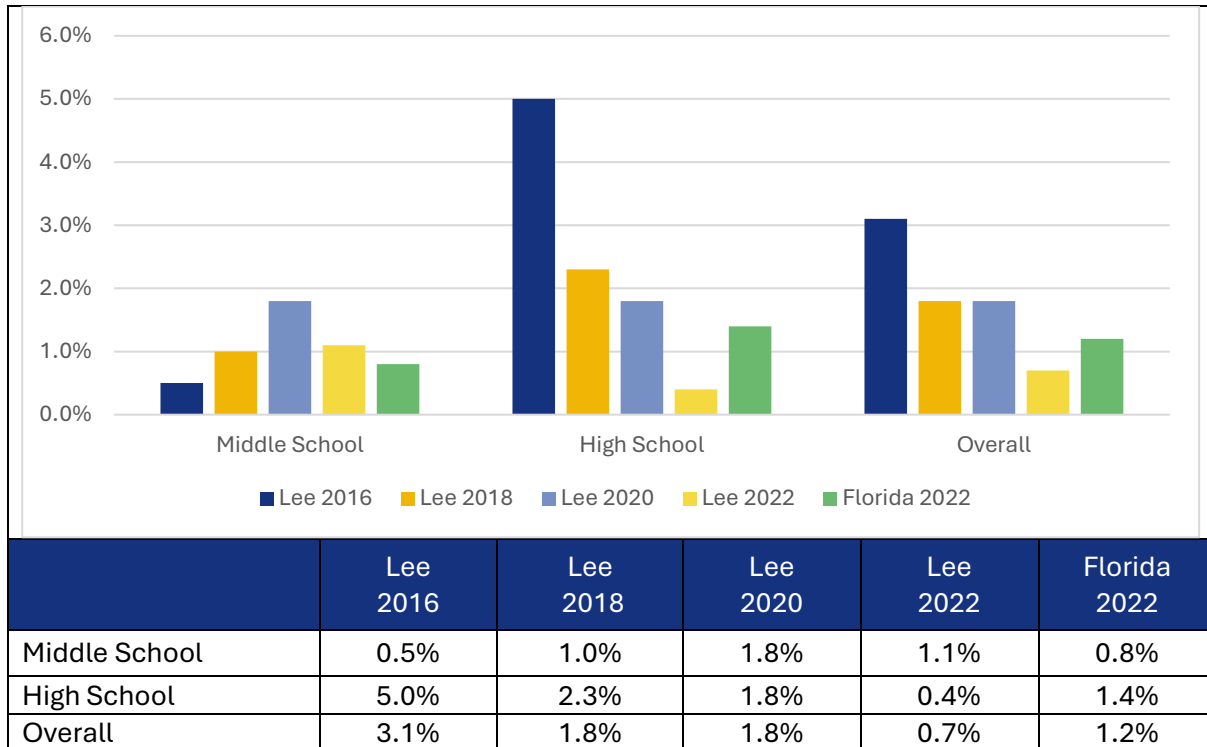
Exhibit HB1: Students who have drank alcohol in the past 30 days, Lee County 2016-2022, Florida 2022



Source: Florida Department of Health, Division of Community Health Promotion, FYSAS

The percentage of high school students in Lee County who reported cigarette use in the past 30 days has significantly decreased in the past decade (5.0% 2016, 0.4% 2022). The number of middle school students who reported smoking cigarettes in the past 30 days increased slightly to 1.1% in 2022.

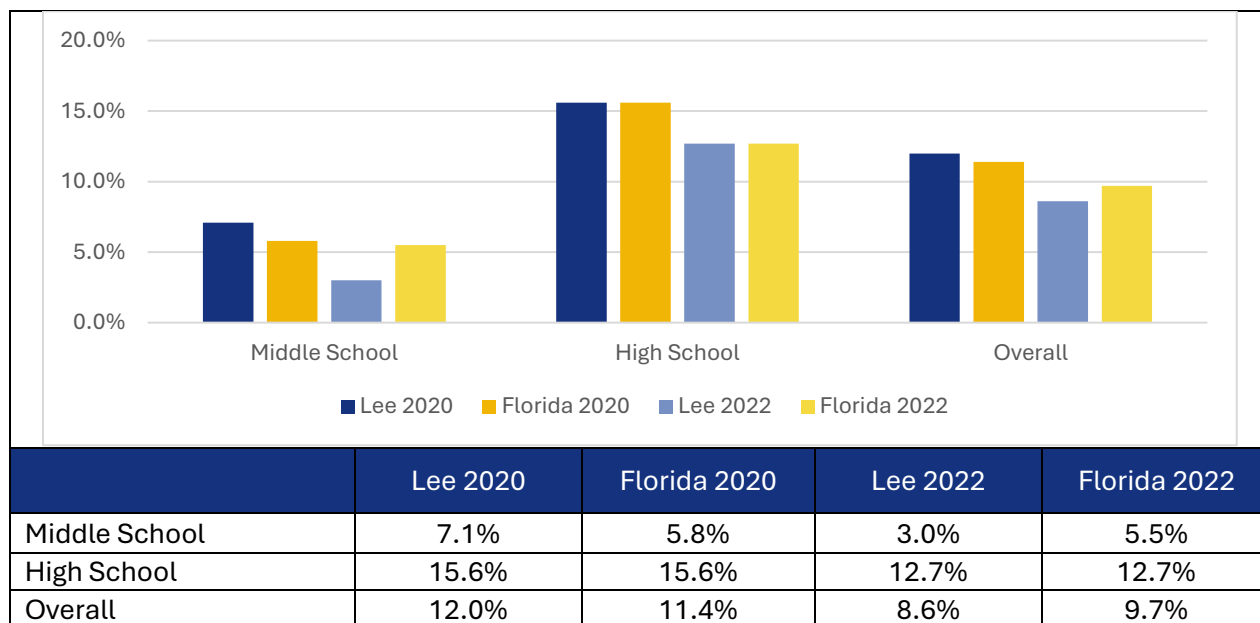
Exhibit HB2: Students who smoked cigarettes in the past 30 days, Lee County, 2016-2022, Florida 2022



Source: Florida Department of Health, Division of Community Health Promotion, FYSAS

The percentage of middle and high school students in Lee County who reported vaping nicotine in the past 30 days decreased between 2020 and 2022 (12.0% 2020, 8.6% 2022). It is also below the state average.

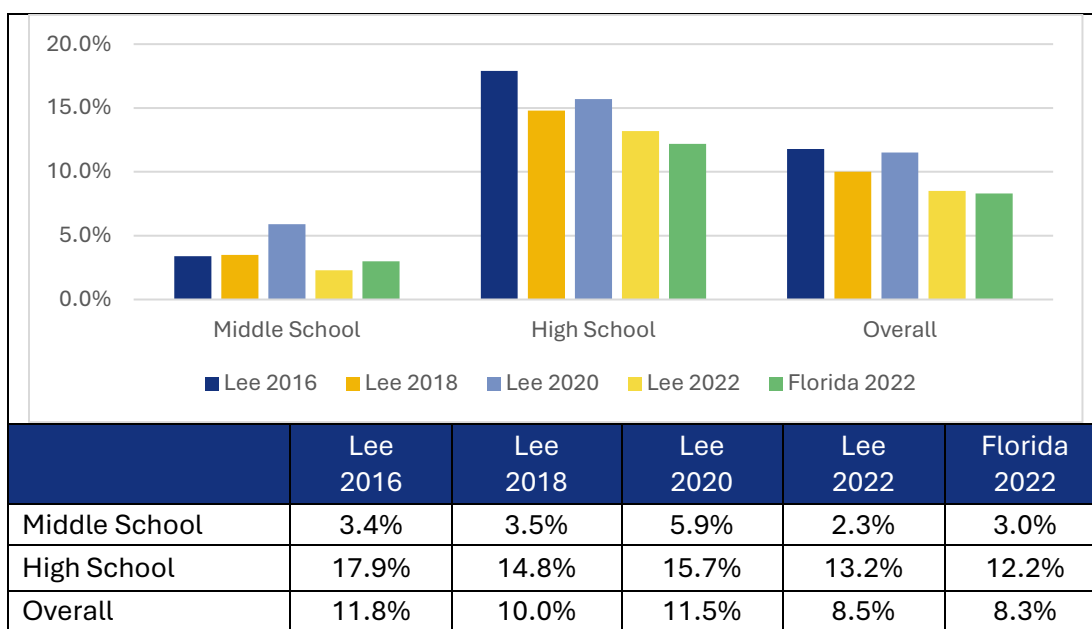
Exhibit HB3: Students who have vaped nicotine in the past 30 days, Lee County 2020-2022, Florida 2022



Source: Florida Department of Health, Division of Community Health Promotion, Florida Youth Substance Abuse Survey (FYSAS)

From 2016 to 2022, the percentage of middle and high school students in Lee County who reported using marijuana or hashish decreased (11.8% in 2016, 8.5% 2022).

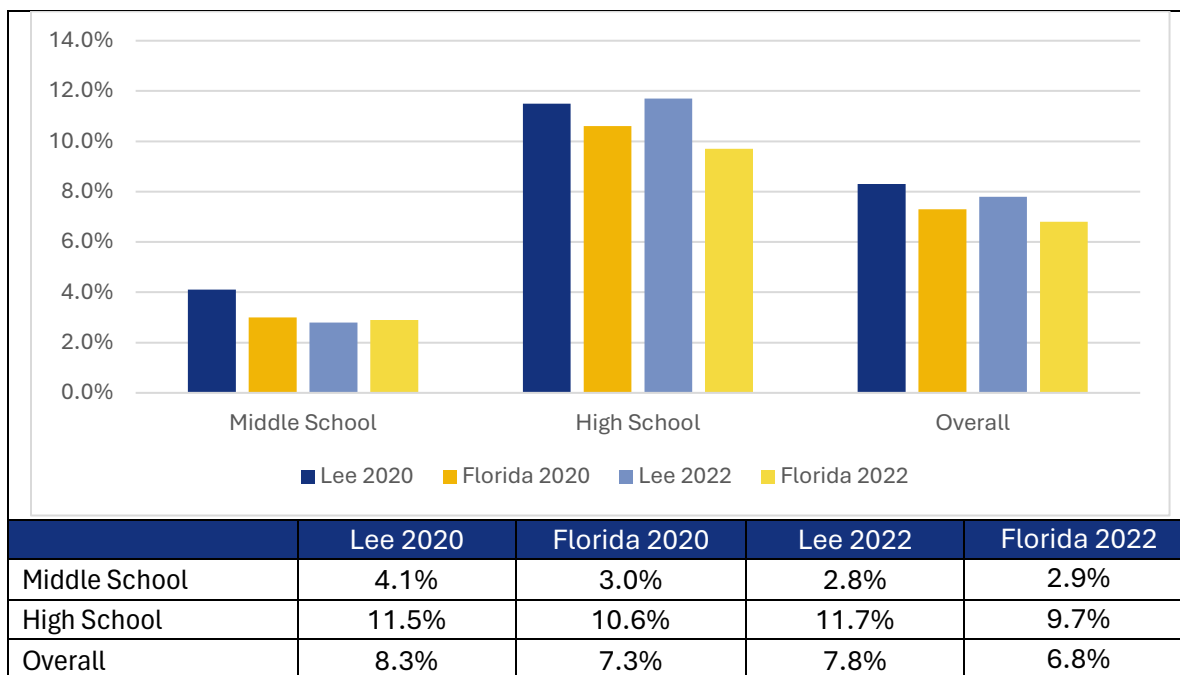
Exhibit HB4: Students who have used marijuana or hashish in the past 30 days, Lee County 2016-2022, Florida 2022



Source: Florida Department of Health, Division of Community Health Promotion, FYSAS

In 2022, 7.8 percent of high school students in Lee County reported vaping marijuana in the past 30 days. When compared to the Florida average in 2020 and 2022, Lee County had a higher percentage of students who reported vaping marijuana.

Exhibit HB5: Students who have vaped marijuana in the past 30 days, Lee County 2020-2022, Florida 2020-2022



Source: Florida Department of Health, Division of Community Health Promotion, FYSAS

Injury Mortality

Injuries affect the entire population regardless of gender, ethnicity, race, or socioeconomic status. Injuries remain a leading cause of death for residents of all ages in Lee County, as well as in Florida.

The risk of mortality due to an injury will vary by age, gender, and the external cause of the injury. Males have significantly higher death rates from injuries than females at any age group, while the elderly have the highest injury fatality rates.

All these causes of injuries are theoretically preventable, therefore granting the opportunity and challenge to reduce Years of Potential Life Lost and increase life expectancy at various ages.

More people in Lee County died from unintentional injuries than from any other fatal injuries in 2020. The 85 and older age group had the highest number of unintentional injury fatalities.

Exhibit HB6: Total Fatal Injuries, By Intent and Age Group, Lee County and Florida 2023

Intent	<1	1-4	5-9	10-14	15-19	20-24	25-34	35-44	45-54	55-64	65-74	75-84	85+	County Age Adj Rate	Florida Age Adj Rate
Homicide	0	0	0	0	3	3	5	6	1	8	1	1	0	3.71	6.36
Suicide	0	0	0	0	3	4	14	15	19	30	14	22	3	13.17	14.08
Undetermined	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	1	2	0	2	1	0.79	0.8
Unintentional	7	4	2	2	19	19	64	87	72	86	65	92	125	66.68	63.88

Source: Florida Department of Health, Bureau of Vital Statistics

Rates are per 100,000

The top three fatal injury mechanisms for Lee County in 2023 were poisonings, falls, and firearms. Poisoning includes drug overdoses. Poisoning has a significantly higher age-adjusted rate of fatal injuries than falls because it impacts more young people than falls.

Exhibit HB7: Total Fatal Injuries by Mechanism, Lee County and Florida, 2023

Mechanism	All Ages	County Age Adj Rate	Florida Age Adj Rate
Poisoning	246	33.09	31.99
Fall	222	12.15	12.29
Firearm	88	9.73	13.39
Suffocation	52	6.07	5.16
MV Traffic - Occupant	48	6.02	5.72
Drowning, Submersion (includes water transport)	27	3.17	2.37
MV Traffic - Motorcyclist	25	3.6	3.08
MV Traffic - Other, Unspecified	21	2.08	1.88
MV Traffic - Pedestrian	17	1.82	3
Other Specified & Classifiable	9	1.18	0.92
MV Traffic - Pedalcyclist	8	0.78	0.82
Fire, Flame	6	0.46	0.6
Other Specified & NEC	6	0.5	0.84
Unspecified	6	0.6	1.04
Cut, Pierce	5	0.73	0.8
Natural, Environmental	5	0.49	0.32
Pedestrian, Other	4	0.67	0.24
Struck By, Against	4	0.46	0.19
Transport, Other	4	0.44	0.53
Hot Object, Substance	1	0.15	0.02
Machinery	1	0.15	0.07

Source: Florida Department of Health, Bureau of Vital Statistics

Rates are per 100,000

NEC – not elsewhere classifiable

Unspecified refers to injuries for which the underlying or precipitating cause is not adequately documented (i.e., on the death certificate)

The leading cause of fatal injury in Lee County varies by age. For those who are younger, suffocation or motor vehicle traffic is most likely to cause a fatal injury; for those who are 25-64, drug poisoning or an overdose is the most frequent cause of fatal injury. For Lee County residents who are over the age of 65, falls are the leading cause of fatal injuries.

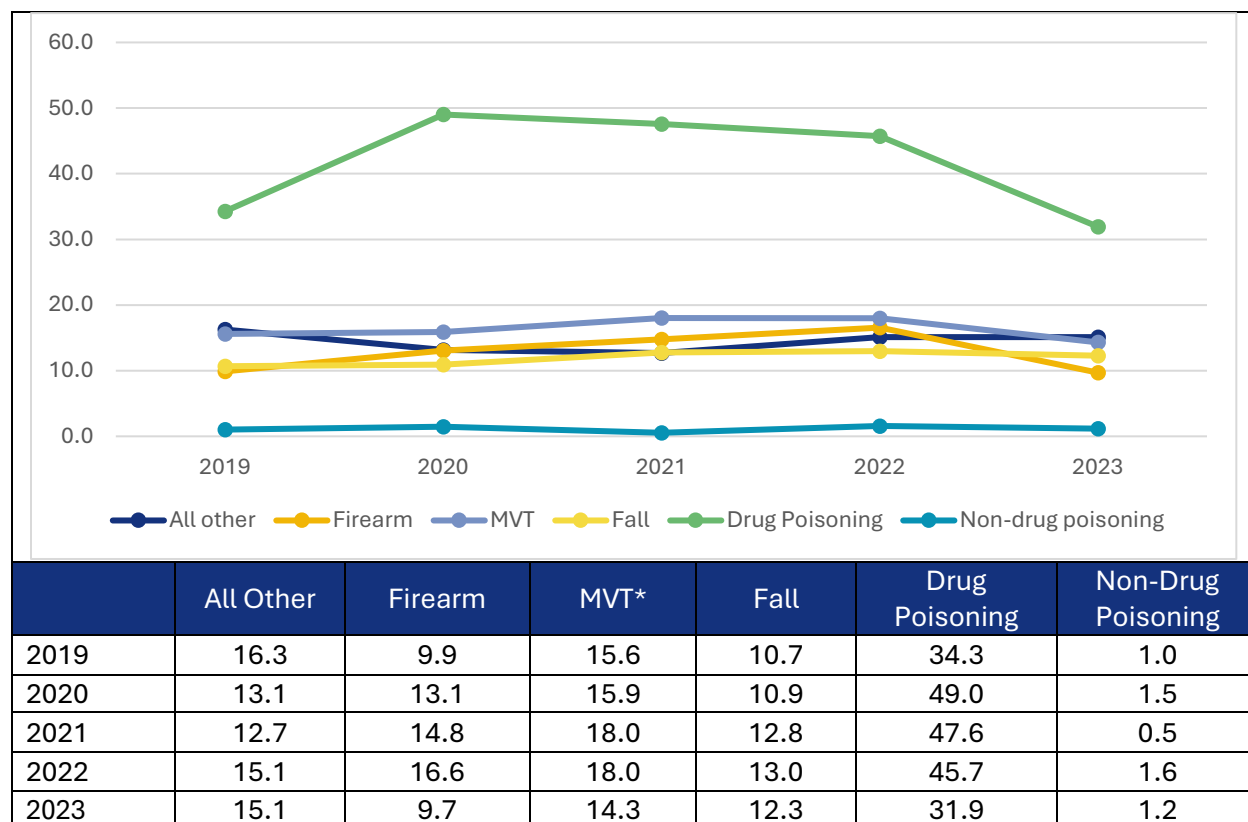
Exhibit HB8: Leading Cause of Fatal Injury by Age, Lee County, 2023

Age	Leading Cause of Fatal Injury
0 – 14	Suffocation
15 – 24	Motor vehicle traffic
25 – 64	Drug Poisoning
65+	Falls

Source: Florida Department of Health, Bureau of Vital Statistics

In Lee County, drug poisoning was responsible for fatal injuries at a higher age-adjusted rate than all the other causes. From 2019 to 2020, there was a drastic increase in drug poisoning deaths in Lee County (34.3 2019, 49.0, 2020); however, the rate has been declining to 31.9 in 2023. There was an increase in the death rate from falls (10.7 2019, 12.3 2023).

Exhibit HB9: Leading Cause of Fatal Injury by Mechanism, Age-Adjusted Death Rate, Rate per 100,000 Population, Lee County, 2019-2023

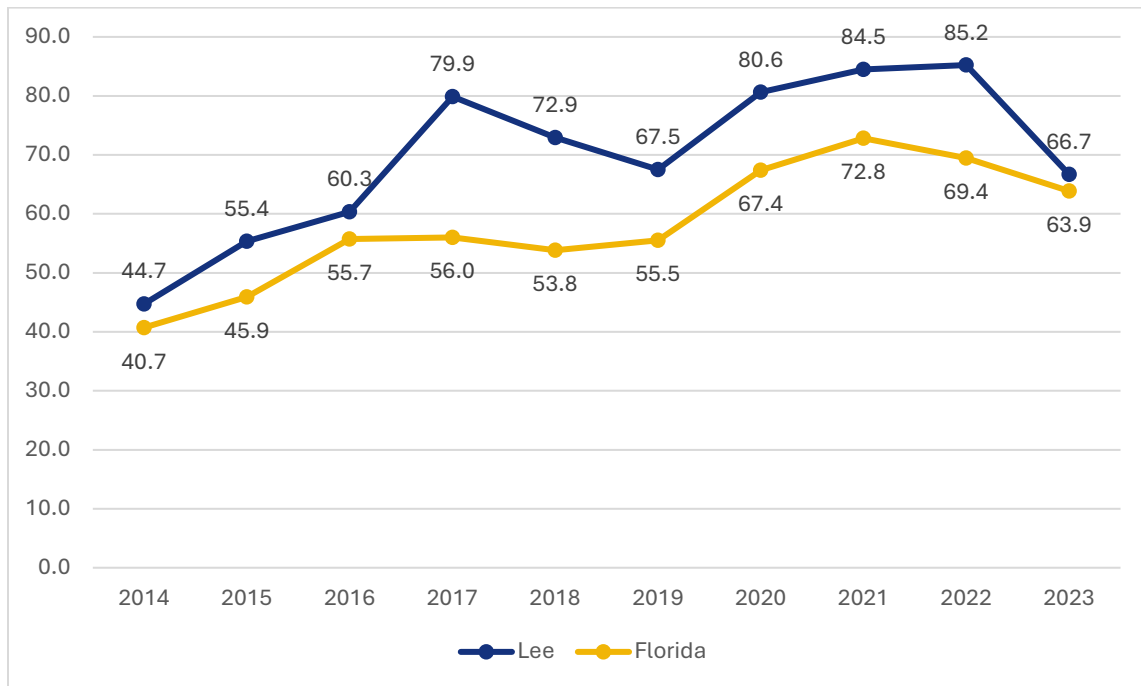


Source: Florida Department of Health, Bureau of Vital Statistics, * Motor Vehicle Traffic

Unintentional Injury

Unintentional injuries are injuries that were not intended to harm oneself or intentionally cause harm to another person. There was a significant increase in the death rate from unintentional injuries from 2014 to 2022 (40.7 2014, 85.2 2022); however, there was a considerable decline from 2022 to 2023 (85.2 2022, 66.7 2023). In 2023, Lee County's unintentional injury death rate was slightly higher than the Florida average (66.7 Lee, 63.9 Florida).

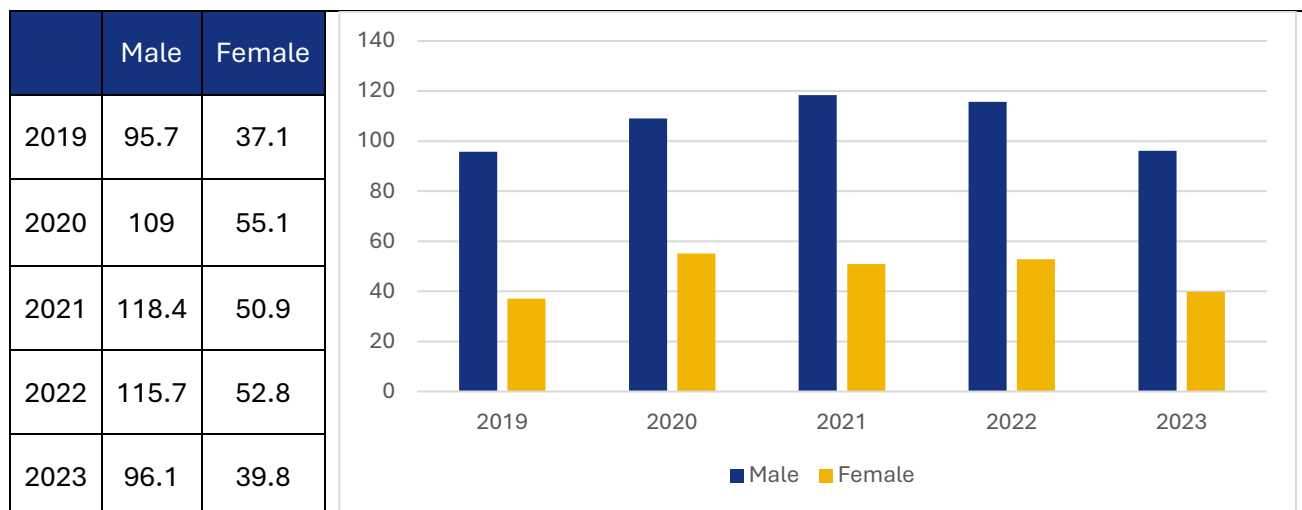
Exhibit HB10: Age-Adjusted Deaths from Unintentional Injury, Rate per 100,000 Population, Lee County and Florida, 2014-2023



Source: Florida Department of Health, Bureau of Vital Statistics

From 2019 to 2023, males consistently had a higher death rate than females from unintentional injuries.

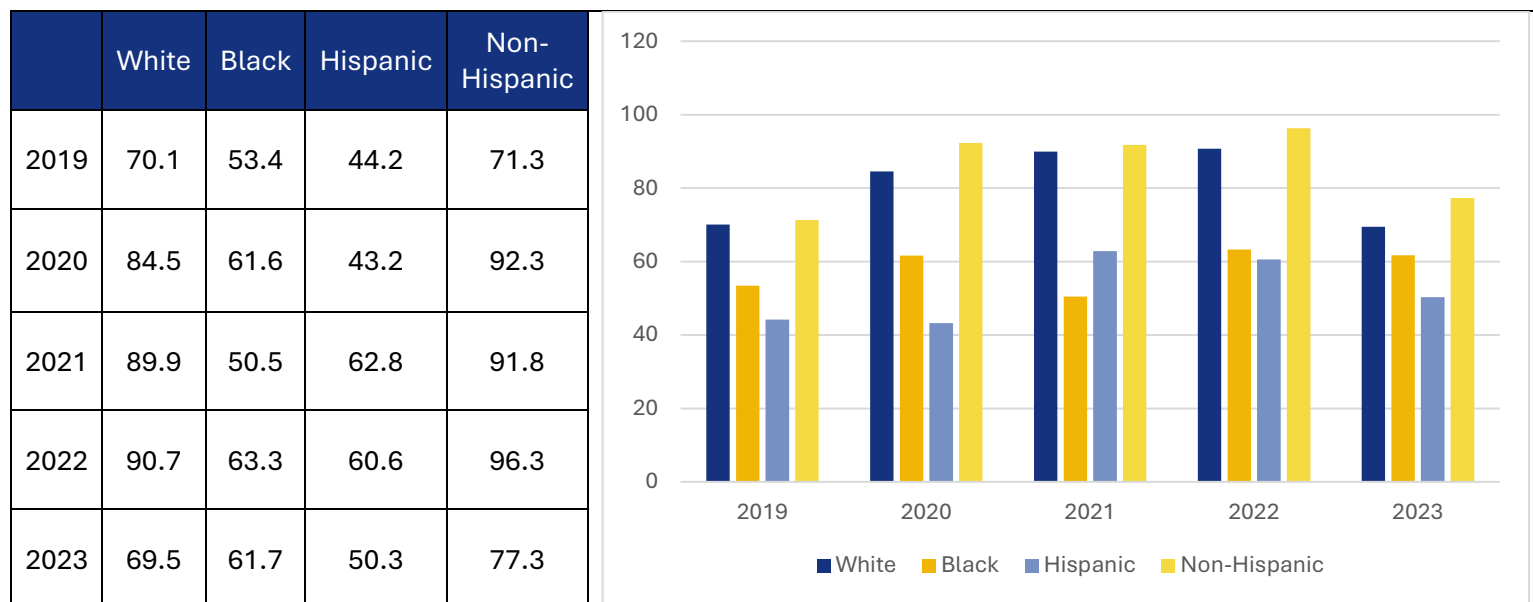
Exhibit HB11: Age-Adjusted Deaths from Unintentional Injury by Sex, Rate per 100,000 Population, Lee County, 2019-2023



Source: Florida Department of Health, Bureau of Vital Statistics

Whites and non-Hispanics had the highest unintentional injury death rate in every year in the table below.

Exhibit HB12: Age-Adjusted Deaths from Unintentional Injury by Race and Ethnicity, Rate per 100,000 Population, Lee County, 2019-2023



Source: Florida Department of Health, Bureau of Vital Statistics

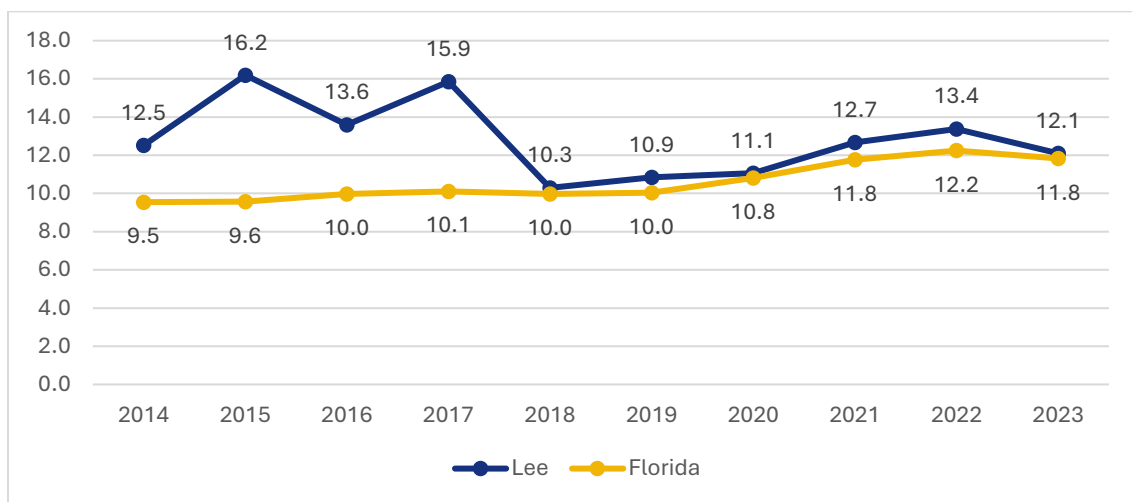


Source: Photo courtesy of the Health Planning Council of Southwest Florida, Inc.

Falls

Prior to 2018, Lee County had a significantly higher rate of deaths from unintentional falls than the state average. Since 2018, the rate has been similar to the state average (12.1 Lee, 11.8 Florida, 2023).

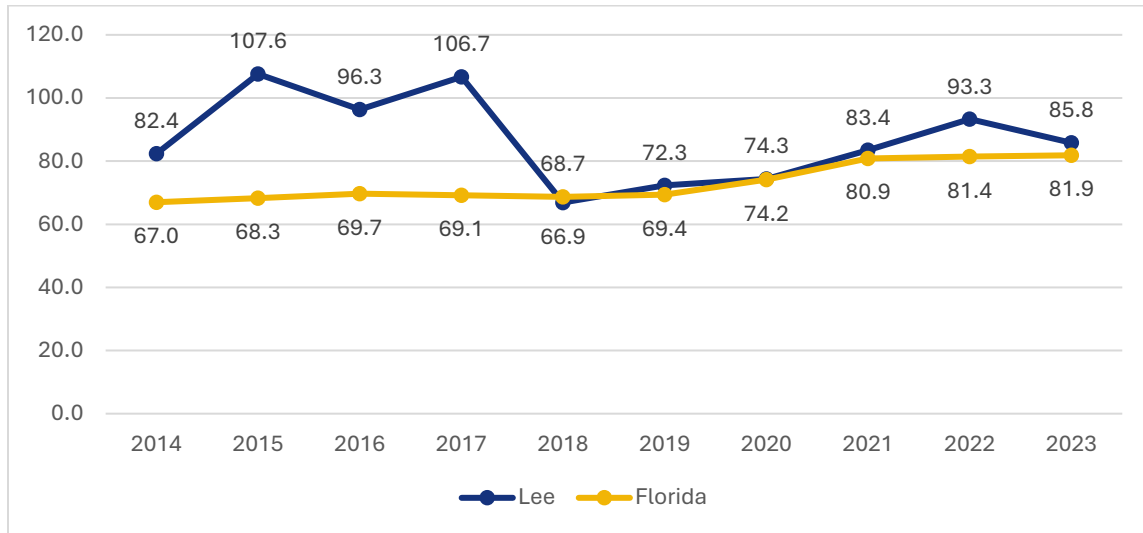
Exhibit HB13: Age-Adjusted Deaths from Unintentional Falls, Rate per 100,000 Population, Lee County and Florida, 2014-2023



Source: Florida Department of Health, Bureau of Vital Statistics

Deaths from unintentional falls are most common in the population aged 65 or older. Prior to 2018, Lee County adults aged 65 and older had a significantly higher rate of deaths from unintentional falls than the state average. Since 2018, the rate has been relatively similar to the state average (85.8 Lee, 81.9 Florida, 2023).

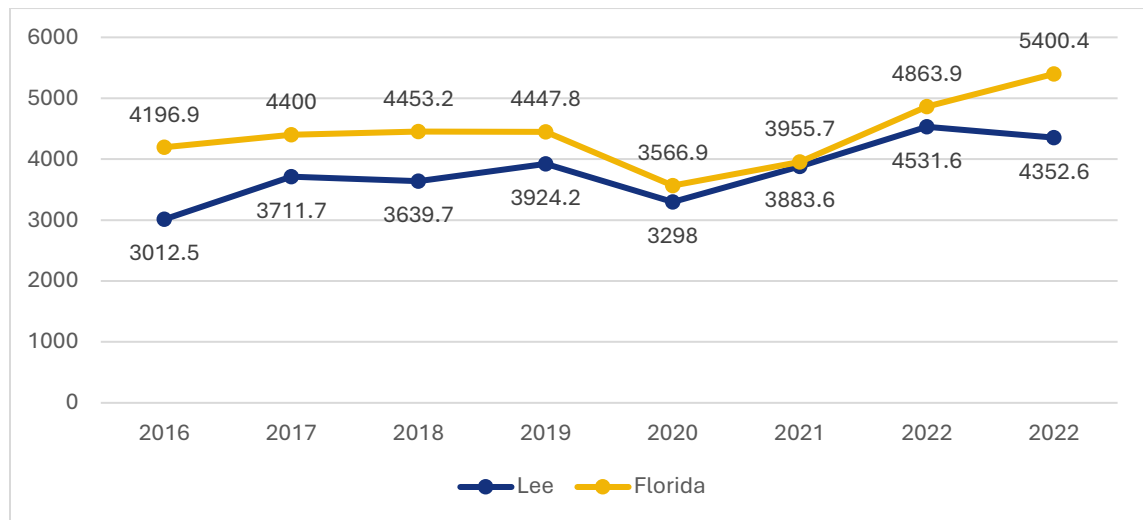
Exhibit HB14: Deaths from Unintentional Falls, Aged 65 and older, Rate per 100,000, Lee County and Florida, 2014-2023



Source: Florida Department of Health, Bureau of Vital Statistics

Emergency department visits for non-fatal unintentional falls in the population aged 65 and older in Lee County have been rising, although there was a slight decline from 2022 to 2023. The rate for Lee County is lower than the state average (4352.6 Lee, 5400.4 Florida, 2023).

Exhibit HB15: Emergency Department Visits from Non-Fatal Unintentional Falls, Aged 65 and Older, Rate per 100,000, Lee County and Florida, 2016-2023

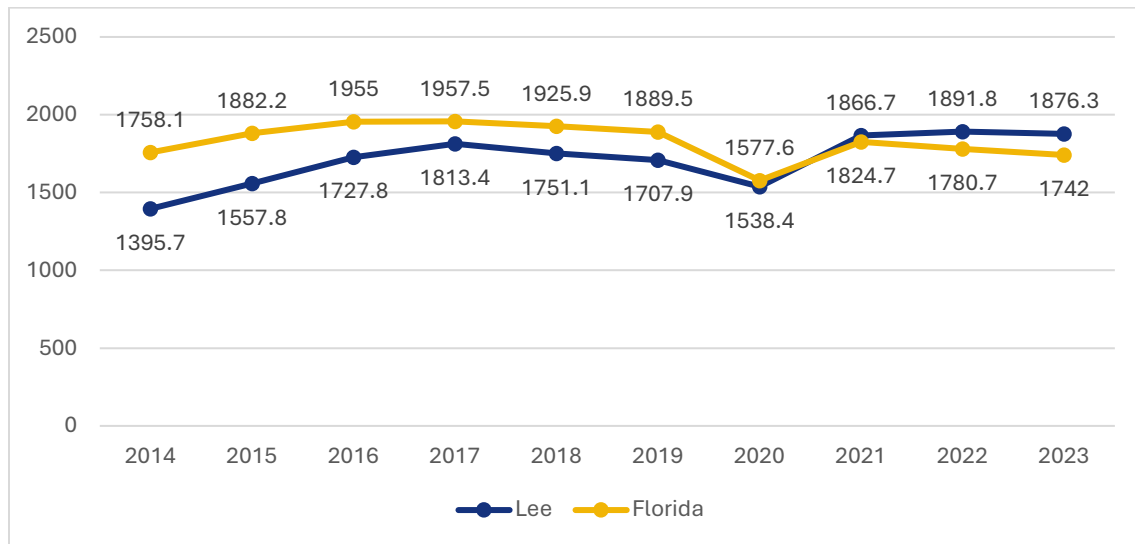


Source: Florida Agency for Health Care Administration (AHCA)

Motor Vehicle Crashes

Lee County consistently had a lower rate of motor vehicle crashes compared to the Florida average between 2014 and 2020. However, since 2021, the rate for Lee County has risen and has been higher than the state average (1876.3 Lee, 1742 Florida, 2023).

Exhibit HB16: Motor Vehicle Traffic Crashes, Rate per 100,000 Population, Lee County and Florida, 2014-2023



Source: Florida Department of Highway Safety and Motor Vehicles (HSMV)

When compared to Florida, Lee County has more alcohol confirmed motor vehicle traffic crashes, injuries, and fatalities.

Exhibit HB17: Alcohol Confirmed Motor Vehicle Traffic, 3-year Rate per 100,000, Lee County and Florida, 2021-2023

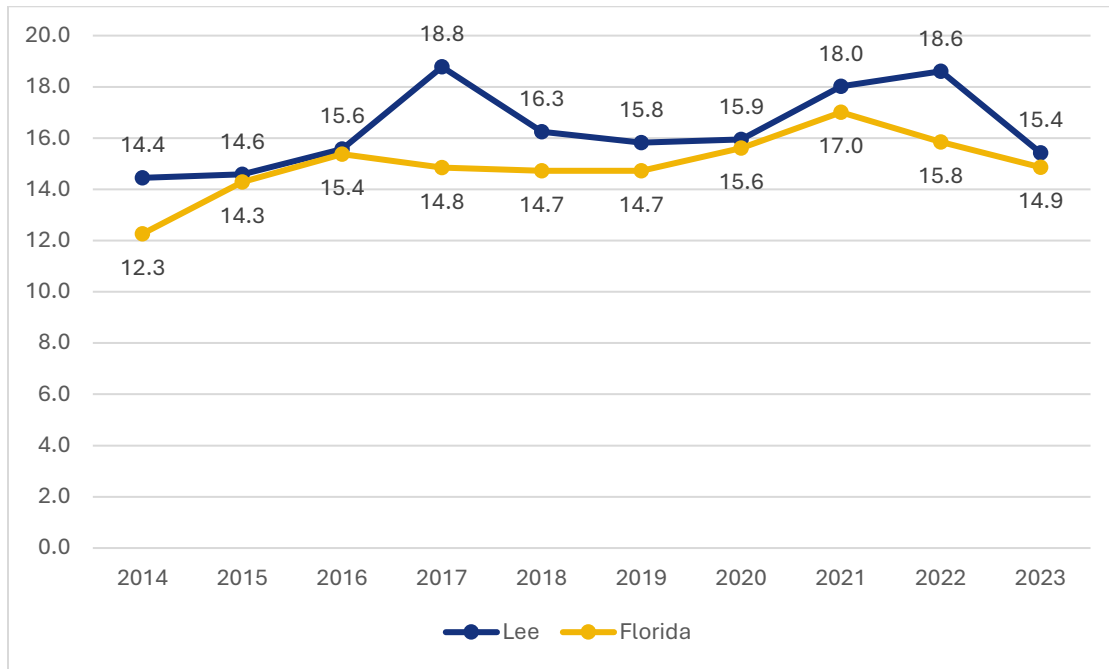
	Lee	Florida	Quartile
Motor Vehicle Traffic Crashes	33.7	23.1	3
Motor Vehicle Traffic Injuries	22.5	13.7	3
Motor Vehicle Traffic Crash Fatalities	2.3	1.8	2

Source: Florida Department of Highway Safety and Motor Vehicles (HSMV)

Quartiles – County is compared to other Florida counties. The lowest quarter equals the lowest number, or best outcome.

The age-adjusted death rate from motor vehicle crashes for Lee County in 2023 is slightly higher than the average for the state (15.4 Lee, 14.9 Florida).

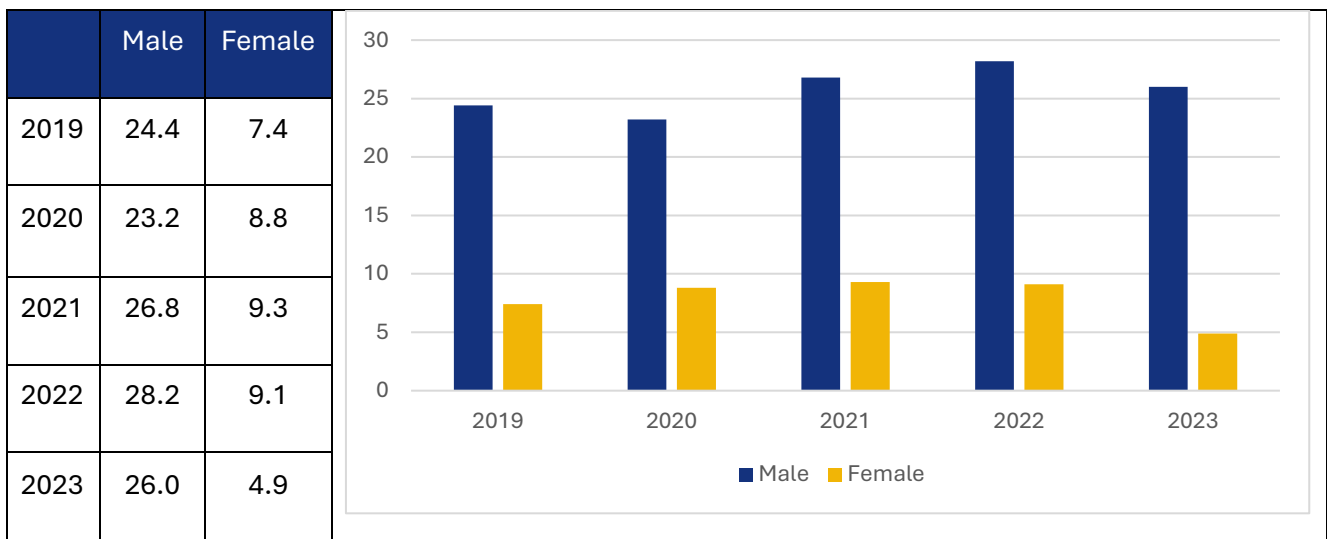
Exhibit HB18: Age-Adjusted Deaths from Motor Vehicle Crashes, Rate per 100,000 Population, Lee County and Florida, 2014-2023



Source: Florida Department of Health, Bureau of Vital Statistics

In Lee County, men have a significantly higher rate of age-adjusted deaths from motor vehicle crashes than women.

Exhibit HB19: Age-Adjusted Deaths from Motor Vehicle Crashes by Sex, Rate per 100,000 Population, Lee County, 2019-2023

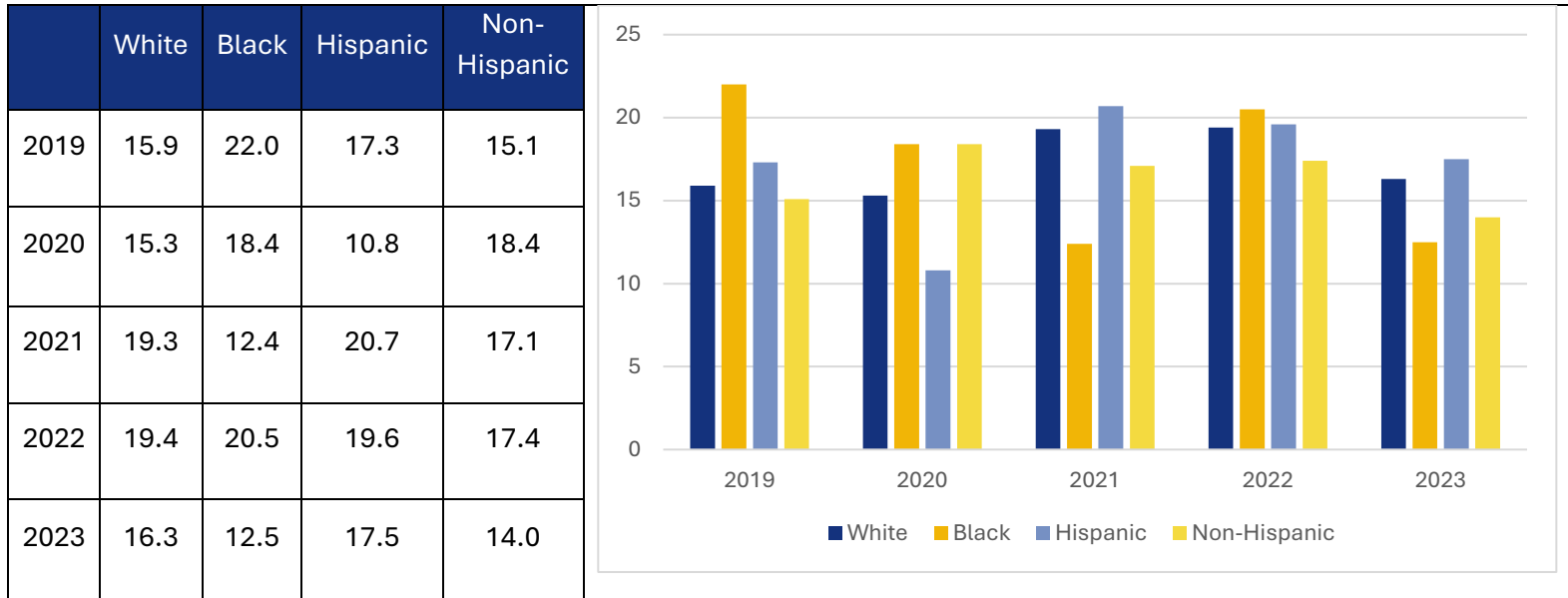


Source: Florida Department of Health, Bureau of Vital Statistics

2025 Lee County Community Health Assessment: Health Behaviors

In Lee County, for most years between 2019 and 2023, the age-adjusted rate of deaths from motor vehicle crashes is higher for the Black population than for the other races and ethnicities; however, in 2023, the Black population had the lowest rate of deaths from motor vehicle crashes.

Exhibit HB20: Age-Adjusted Deaths from Motor Vehicle Crashes by Race and Ethnicity, Rate per 100,000 Population, Lee County, 2019-2023



Source: Florida Department of Health, Bureau of Vital Statistics



Source: Photo courtesy of the Health Planning Council of Southwest Florida, Inc.

Maternal and Infant Health

Compared to other Florida counties for the years 2021-2023, Lee County has a higher rate for births to mothers aged 15-19 than the state average (16.0 Lee, 13.2 Florida); however, that rate has been improving.

Lee County is in the worst quartile for the state for births with 1st trimester prenatal care (with a rate of 66.0% compared to 71.7% for Florida). The trends for prenatal care in Lee County have been negative, with fewer receiving early or adequate prenatal care.

Exhibit HB21: Maternal and Infant Health Indicators, 3-year Figures, Lee County and Florida, 2021-2023

	County	State	Trend	Quartile
Birth family characteristics				
Total Births (Count, 3-year annual avg.)	7,491	220,668.3		2
Births to Mothers ages 15-44, per 1,000	60.4	54.5		3
Births to Unwed Mothers ages 15-44 (%)	49.1	46.1		3
Births to Mothers ages 15-19, per 1,000	16.0	13.2	Positive	2
Births to Mothers 19 and Over without High School Education (%)	11.1	9.2	Positive	3
Infant deaths				
Infant Deaths (0-364 days) per 1,000 Live Births	5.7	6.0	Inconsistent	2
Neonatal Deaths (0-27 days) per 1,000 Live Births	3.5	3.9	Inconsistent	2
Post-Neonatal Deaths (28-364 days) per 1,000 Live Births	2.2	2.0	Inconsistent	2
Low Birth Weight				
Births <1500 Grams (Very Low Birth Weight) %	1.6%	1.6%	Steady	3
Births < 2500 Grams (Low Birth Weight) %	8.7%	9.1%	Steady	2
Prenatal Care				
Births with 1st Trimester Prenatal Care (%)	66.0%	71.7%	Negative	4
Births to Mothers with No Prenatal Care (%)	1.7%	3.3%	Steady	1
Births with adequate prenatal care (Kotelchuck index) [%]	66.9%	63.3%	Negative	3

Source: Florida Department of Health, Bureau of Vital Statistics

*County compared to other Florida counties. 1 is the best to 4 as the lowest

Fewer women in Lee County breastfeed compared to the state average; however, that percentage has been increasing (77.7% Lee, 85.8% Florida, 2021-2023). The maternal death rate for Lee County is lower than the state rate (17.8 Lee, 24.2 Florida, 2021-2023); however, the trend has been negative.

Exhibit HB22: Reported Pre-Conception, Pregnancy, and Mother's Health and Behaviors, 3-year Figures, Lee County and Florida, 2021-2023

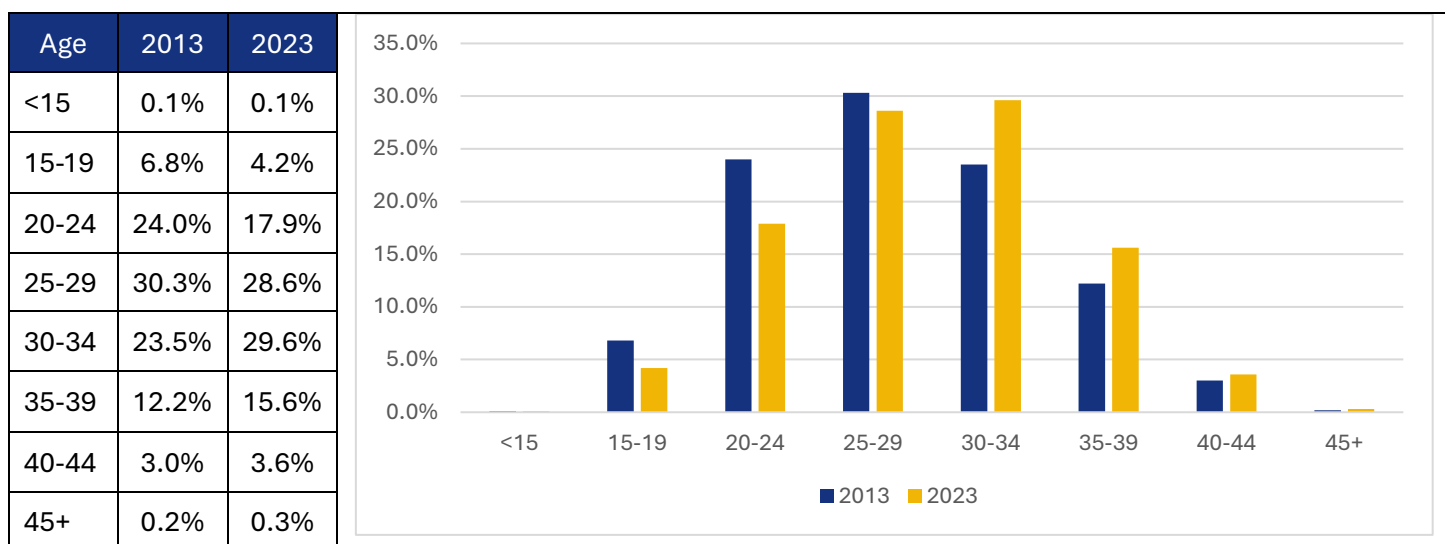
	County	State	Trend	Quartile*
Births to underweight mothers at the time pregnancy occurred, percent of births	2.9%	3.1%	Steady	1
Births to obese mothers at the time of pregnancy occurred, percent of births	31.0%	29.5%	Inconsistent	2
Births with inter-pregnancy interval <18 months, percent of births with known pregnancy interval	37.2%	36.3%	Negative	2
Repeat births to mothers aged 15-19 years, percent of births 15-19 years	12.4%	12.9%	Inconsistent	3
Births with self-pay for delivery payment source, percent of total births	1.5%	5.6%	Negative	2
Births covered by Medicaid, percent of births with a payment source	51.0%	43.9%	Steady	3
C-section births, percent of births	36.6%	35.9%	Positive	3
Mothers who initiate breastfeeding, percent of total births	77.7%	85.8%	Positive	4
Maternal deaths, rate per 100,000 live births	17.8	24.2	Negative	n/a

Source: Florida Department of Health, Bureau of Vital Statistics; Florida Department of Health, Bureau of Communicable Diseases

*County compared to other Florida counties. 1 is the best to 4 as the lowest

Between 2013 and 2023, the average age of mothers giving birth in Lee County increased. In 2013, 38.9% of mothers in Lee County were over the age of 30 at the time of birth; in 2023, 49.1% were over the age of 30.

Exhibit HB23: Births by Mother's Age, Percent of Births, Lee County, 2013, 2023

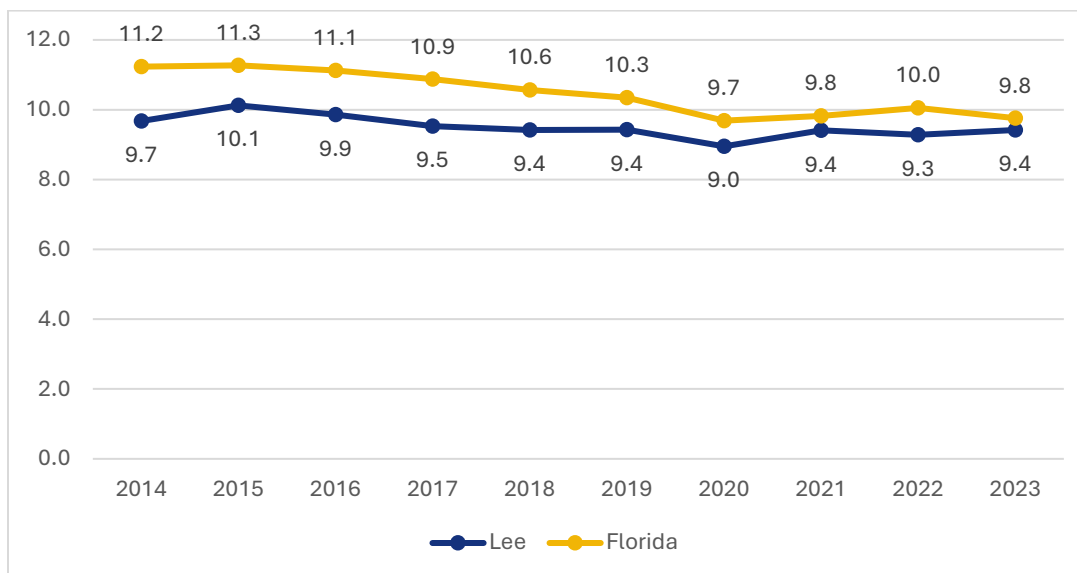


Source: Florida Department of Health, Bureau of Vital Statistics

2025 Lee County Community Health Assessment: Health Behaviors

The birth rate in Lee County has been lower than the Florida average every year from 2014 through 2023. The birth rate in Lee County has remained relatively steady for the past three years.

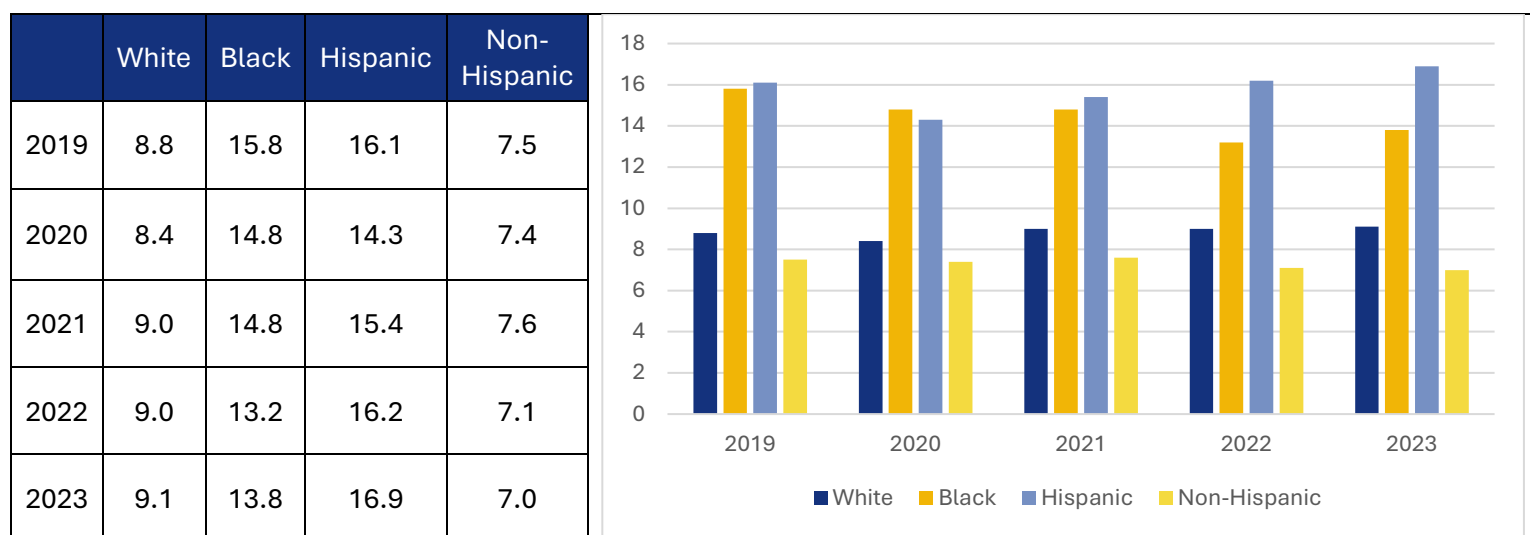
Exhibit HB24: Total Resident Live Births, Rate per 1,000 Population, Lee County and Florida, 2014-2023



Source: Florida Department of Health, Bureau of Vital Statistics

Between 2019 and 2023, the birth rate in Lee County has been higher among the black population and Hispanic population than among the white population and non-Hispanic population. However, the birth rate among the white population has been increasing while the birth rate in the black population has been decreasing.

Exhibit HB25: Total Resident Live Births by Race and Ethnicity, Rate per 1,000, Lee County, 2021-2023

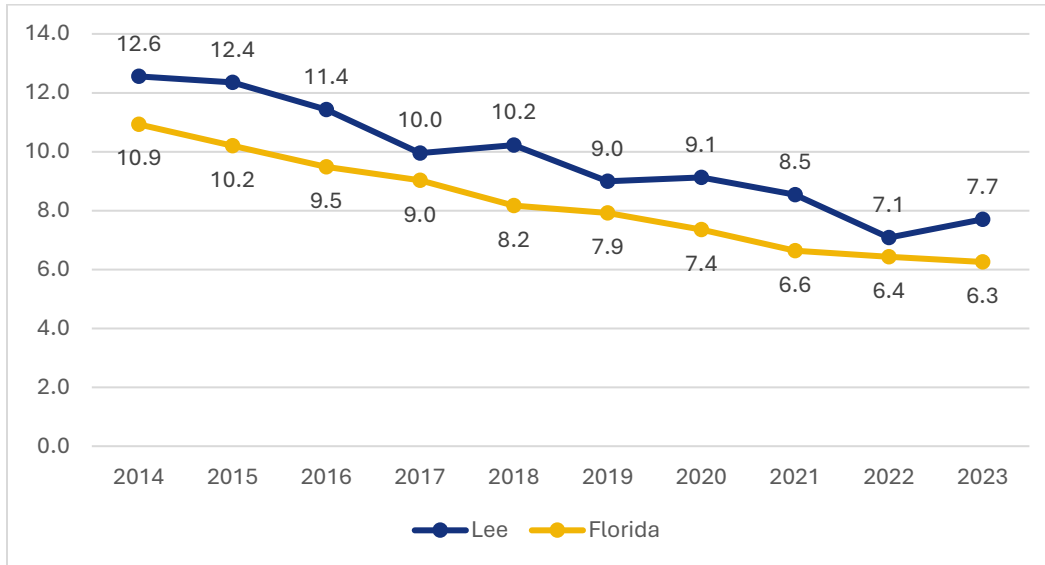


Source: Florida Department of Health, Bureau of Vital Statistics

2025 Lee County Community Health Assessment: Health Behaviors

The rate of births to mothers aged 15-19 significantly declined in Lee County and Florida between 2014 and 2023. Lee County has a higher birth rate for mothers aged 15-19 than the state average (7.7 Lee, 6.3 Florida, 2023).

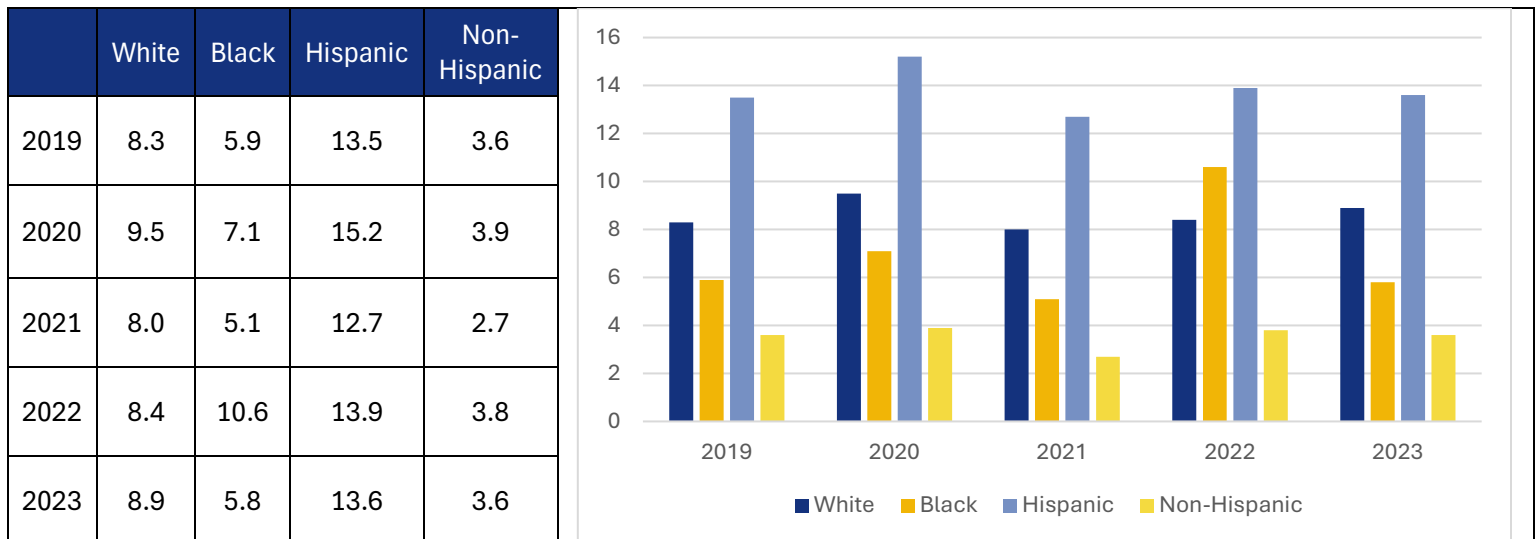
Exhibit HB26: Resident Live Births, Age 15-19, Rate per 1,000, Lee County and Florida, 2014-2023



Source: Florida Department of Health, Bureau of Vital Statistics

In Lee County, between 2019 and 2023, the rate of births to mothers between the ages of 15 and 19 has been higher among the white population than the black population. The rate has been significantly higher among the Hispanic population than the non-Hispanic population for each of these years.

Exhibit HB27: Resident Live Births Mothers' Aged 15-19 by Race and Ethnicity, Rate per 1,000, Lee County, 2019-2023

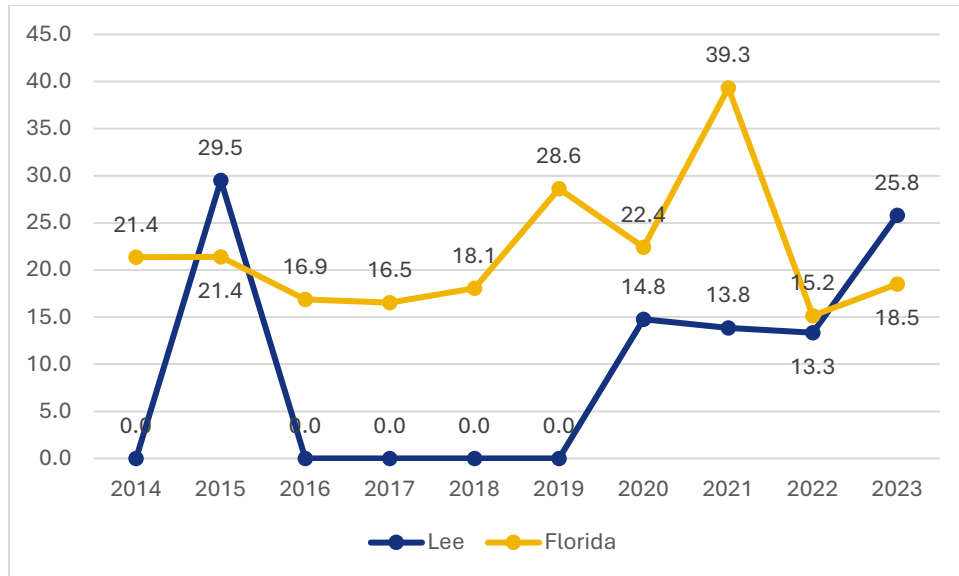


Source: Florida Department of Health, Bureau

2025 Lee County Community Health Assessment: Health Behaviors

Lee County has a higher rate of maternal deaths than the state average (25.8 Lee, 18.5 Florida, 2023). The rate in Lee County has increased since 2019.

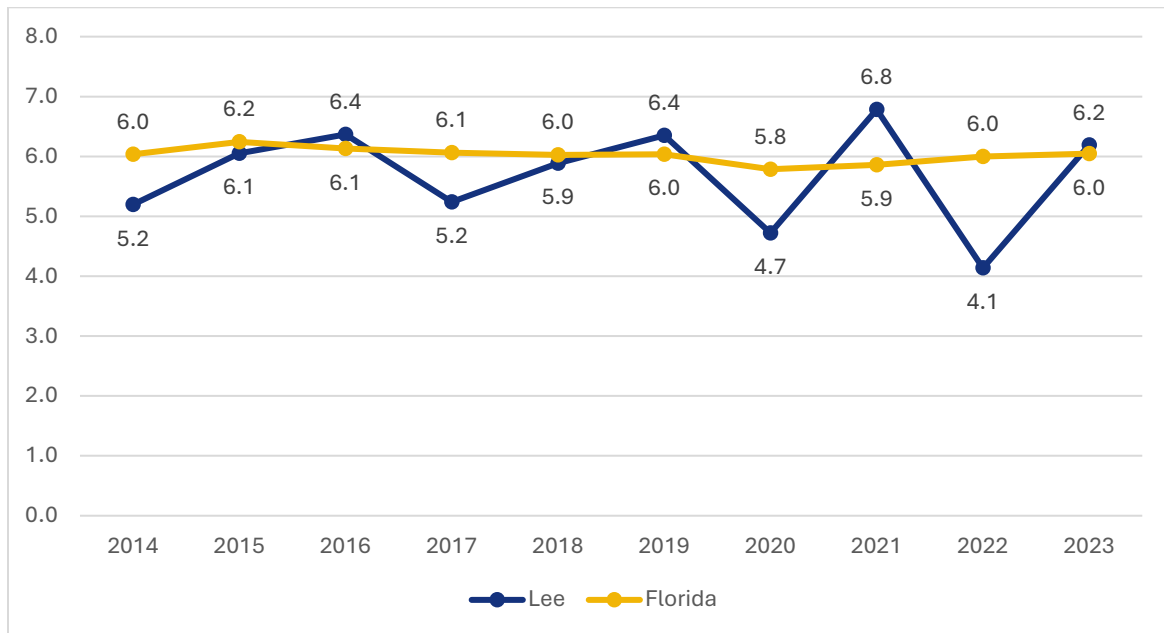
Exhibit HB28: Maternal Deaths, Rate per 100,000 Live Births, Lee County and Florida, 2014-2023



Source: Florida Department of Health, Bureau of Vital Statistics

The infant mortality rate in Lee County is similar to the state average (6.2 Lee, 6.0 Florida, 2023).

Exhibit HB29: Infant Mortality (Aged 0-364 Days from Birth), Rate per 1,000 Live Births, Lee County and Florida, 2014-2023

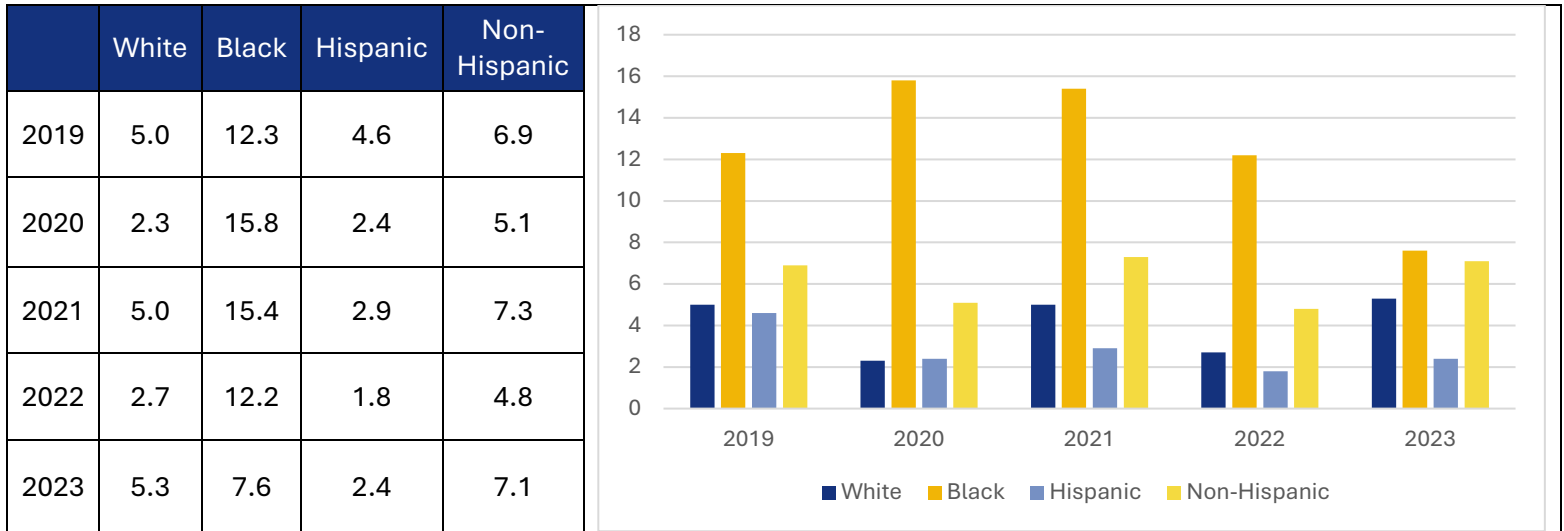


Source: Florida Department of Health, Bureau of Vital Statistics

2025 Lee County Community Health Assessment: Health Behaviors

For the years 2019-2023 in Lee County, the infant mortality rate is higher in the black population than in the white or Hispanic populations. However, the rate in the black population has been improving.

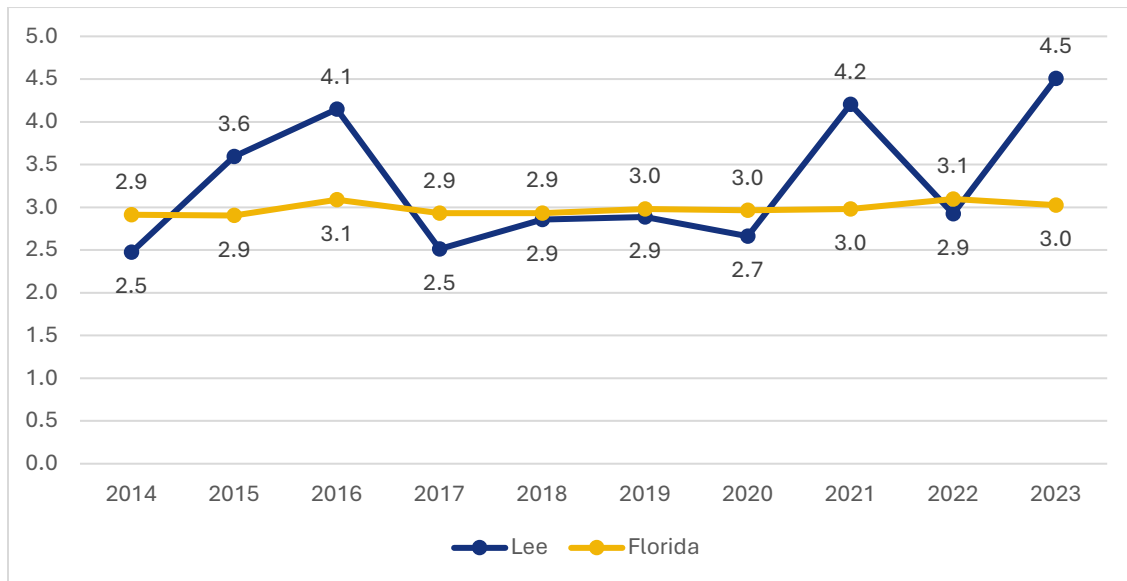
Exhibit HB30: Infant Mortality (0-364 Days from Birth) by Race and Ethnicity, Rate per 1,000 Live Births, Lee County, 2019-2023



Source: Florida Department of Health

The rate of death from Congenital Malformations and Chromosomal Abnormalities is not consistent in Lee County, but in 2023, it was higher than the state average (4.5 Lee, 3.0 Florida, 2023).

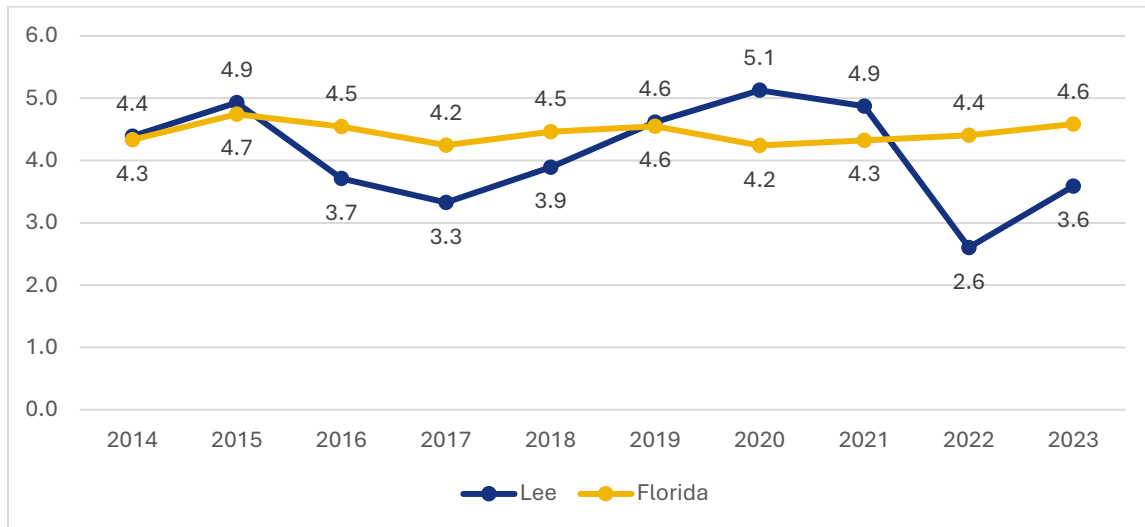
Exhibit HB31: Age-Adjusted Deaths from Congenital Malformations and Chromosomal Abnormalities, Rate 100,000 Population, Lee County and Florida, 2014-2023



Source: Florida Department of Health, Bureau of Vital Statistics

In Lee County, the rate of death from Perinatal Period Conditions has been variable. In 2023, it was lower than the state average (3.6 Lee, 4.6 Florida, 2023).

Exhibit HB32: Age-Adjusted Deaths from Perinatal Period Conditions, Rate per 100,000 Population, Lee County and Florida, 2014-2023

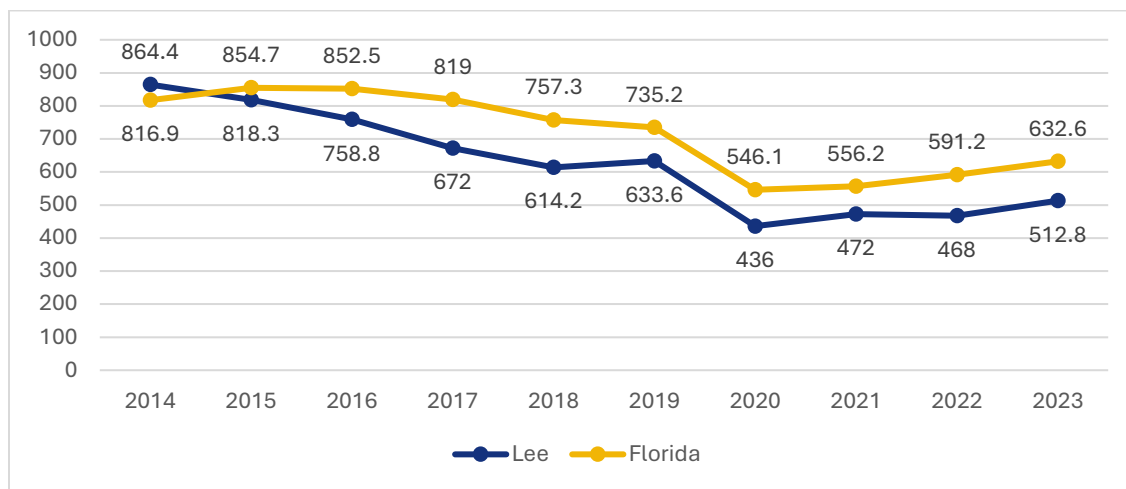


Source: Florida Department of Health, Bureau of Vital Statistics

Oral Health

Dental conditions include tooth malformations, gingivitis, and caries. From 2014 to 2023, there was a decrease in preventable emergency room visits from dental conditions in Lee County (864.4 2019, 512.8 2023). In the past decade, Lee County consistently had fewer people visit the emergency room for dental conditions than the Florida average.

Exhibit HB33: Ambulatory Case Sensitive Emergency Department Visits from Dental Conditions (Aged 0-64 Years), Rate per 100,000 Population Under 65, Lee County and Florida, 2014-2023



Source: Florida Agency for Health Care Administration (AHCA)

Health Conditions



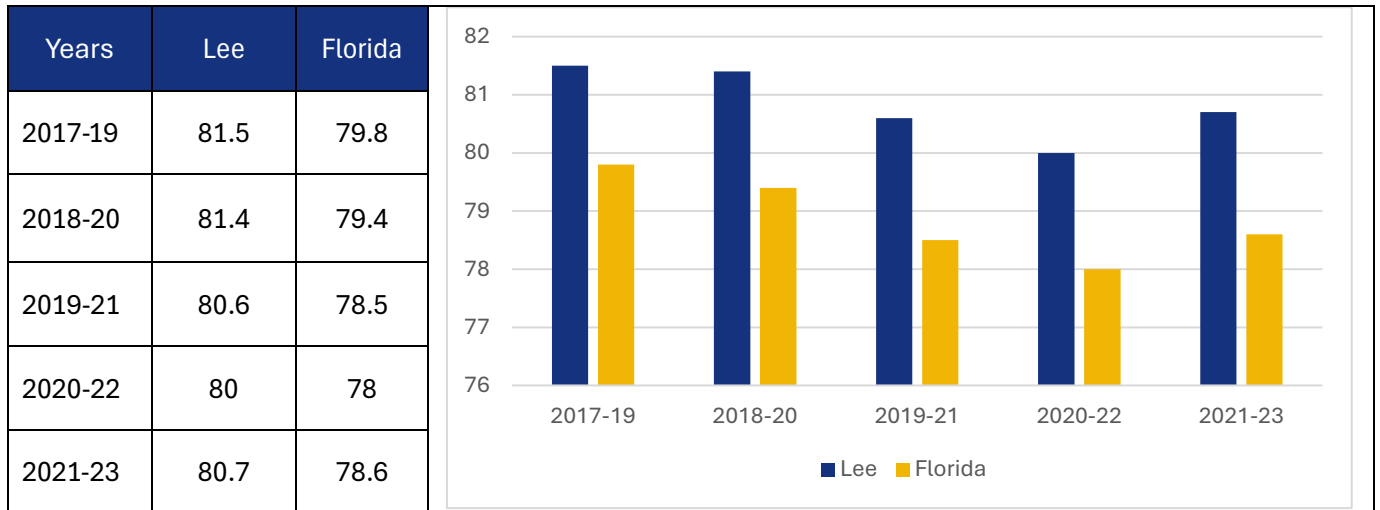
Source: Photo courtesy of NCH

This section of the Community Health Assessment (CHA) for Lee County examines the status of significant health conditions in our community. It includes an analysis of life expectancy, years of potential life lost, and the leading cause of death. The section further explores chronic and infectious diseases, as well as the health of older populations. Understanding the prevalence, trends, and impact of these health conditions is crucial for prioritizing public health efforts and developing effective interventions to improve the health and well-being of Lee County residents.

Life Expectancy

Between 2017 and 2023, Lee County consistently exceeded the Florida average for life expectancy (80.7 Lee, 78.6 Florida, 2023). However, the life expectancy for both Lee County and the State declined between 2017-19 and 2020-22 (81.5 2017-19, 80.0 2020-22, Lee). The expected age increased again for 2021-23 (80.7 Lee).

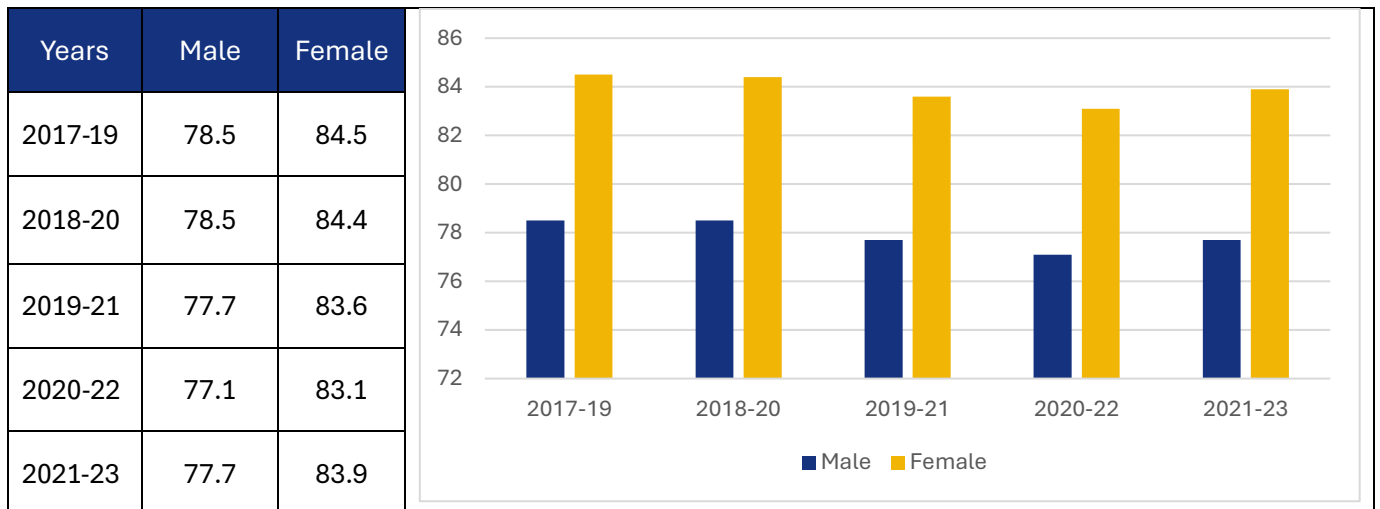
Exhibit HC1: Life Expectancy Over Time, Lee County and Florida, 3-Year Estimates, 2017-2023



Source: Death data are from the Florida Bureau of Vital Statistics. Population data are from the Florida Legislature Office of Economic and Demographic Research

Females in Lee County have consistently had a higher life expectancy compared to males. Between 2021 and 2023, there was a 6.2-year life expectancy difference between males and females.

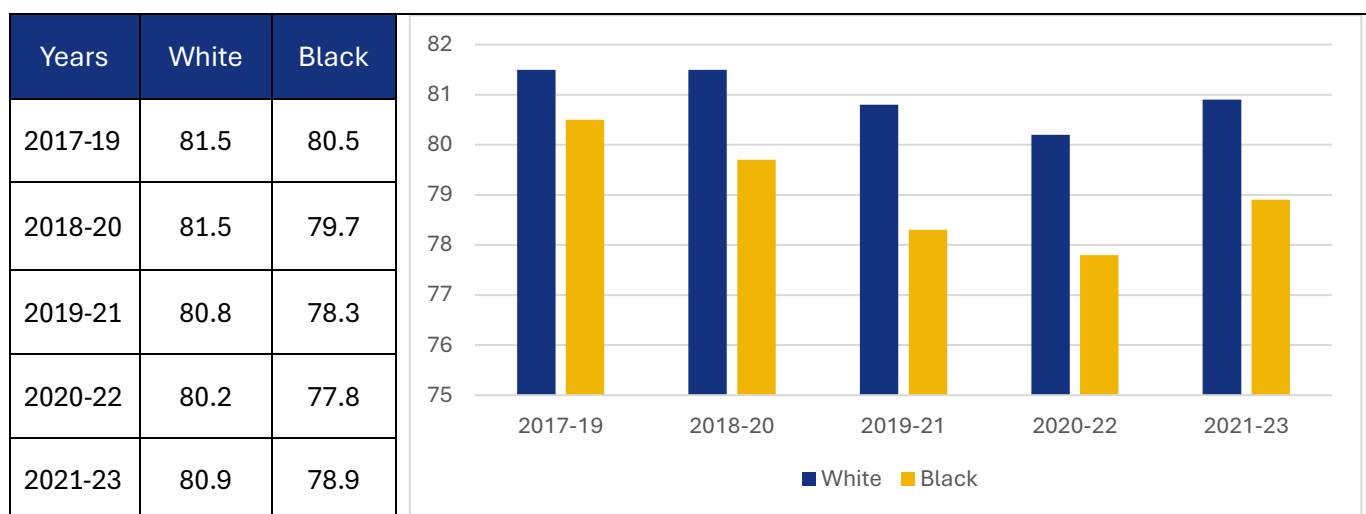
Exhibit HC2: Life Expectancy by Sex, Lee County, 3-Year Estimates, 2018-2023



Source: Death data are from the Florida Bureau of Vital Statistics. Population data are from the Florida Legislature Office of Economic and Demographic Research

Those who identify as black in Lee County had a lower life expectancy between 2017 and 2023 when compared to other races. In 2021-2023, the difference in life expectancy between the black and white populations was two years (78.9 black, 80.9 white).

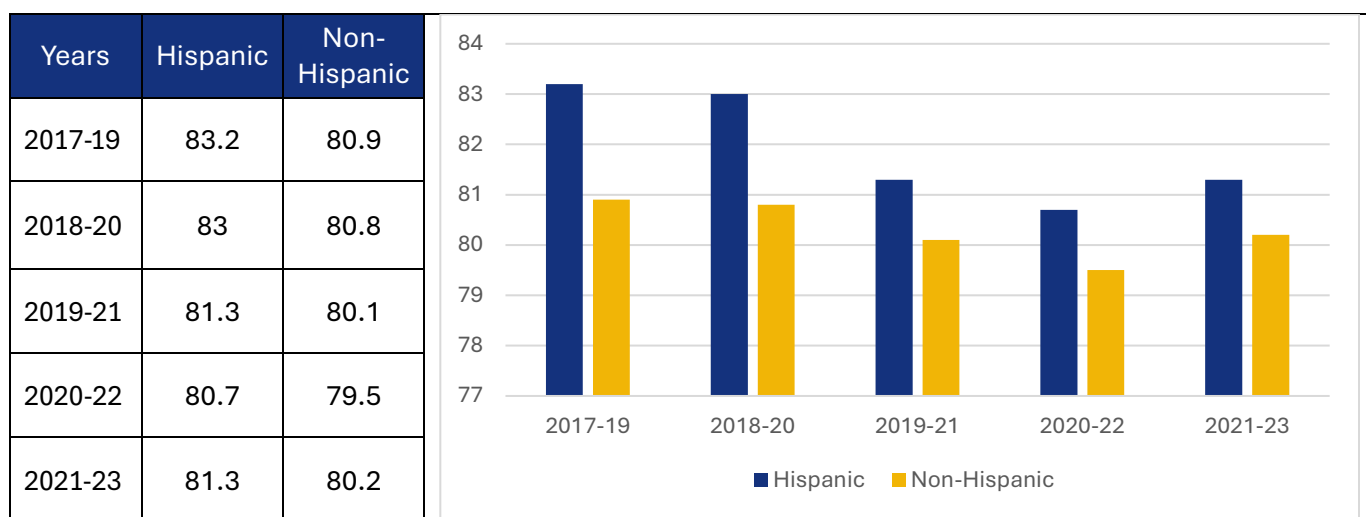
Exhibit HC3: Life Expectancy by Race, Lee County, 3-Year Estimates, 2017-2023



Source: Death data are from the Florida Bureau of Vital Statistics. Population data are from the Florida Legislature Office of Economic and Demographic Research

In Florida, race and ethnicity are tracked separately. Those who identify as Hispanic in Lee County consistently had a higher life expectancy between 2017 and 2023 compared to the non-Hispanic population. The difference in 2021-23 was 1.1 years (81.3 Hispanic, 80.2 non-Hispanic).

Exhibit HC4: Life Expectancy by Ethnicity, Lee County, 3-Year Estimates, 2017-2023



Source: Death data are from the Florida Bureau of Vital Statistics. Population data are from the Florida Legislature Office of Economic and Demographic Research

Leading Cause of Death

The following table gives detailed information on the leading causes of death for residents of Lee County. The deaths column represents a simple count of the number of people who died due to the

listed cause in 2023. The Percent of Total Deaths lets you know the percentage of people who died from that cause. Cancer and heart disease are the two most common causes of death in Lee County. Combined, they are responsible for 43.3 percent of all deaths.

Crude Rate per 100,000 gives a sense of how likely a person is to die of that cause in any given year. For example, out of every 100,000 people in Lee County, 469 of them died of a stroke in 2023. Using the rate per 100,000 allows comparison between areas with different populations, such as comparing a small county to a large county or a county to the state.

The next column lists the age-adjusted death rate per 100,000. Age-adjusting a rate is a method for making fairer comparisons between groups with different age distributions. For example, a county having a higher percentage of elderly people may have a higher rate of death or hospitalization than a county with a younger population, merely because the elderly are more likely to die or be hospitalized. The same distortion can occur when comparing races, genders, or time periods. Age adjustment can make the different groups more comparable.

The last column is Years of Potential Life Lost. This is an estimate of the number of years a person would have lived had they not died prematurely. In this case, the number is given for all people who died under the age of 75, provided they had lived to the age of 75. When the numbers are particularly low, such as they are for Alzheimer's disease, it is generally because that cause of death primarily impacts the elderly. Conversely, an exceptionally high number, such as for unintentional injuries, suggests that the average age of the victims was young.

Cancer, heart disease, and unintentional injury are the top three leading causes of death in 2023 for Lee County. Since 2007, cancer and heart disease were the top two causes of death in Lee County. Unintentional injury, which includes accidental drug overdoses, and cancer had the highest years of potential life lost in Lee County, which means these two causes of death have many young dying from these causes in 2023. Unintentional injuries and suicides are discussed in further detail in the health behaviors section.

Exhibit HC5: Leading Causes of Death, Lee County, 2023

Cause of Death	Deaths	Percent of Total Deaths	Crude Rate per 100,000	Age-Adjusted Death Rate per 100,000	YPLL <75 per 100,000 Under 75
Cancer	1,908	22.4	231.7	117.4	1,408.4
Heart Disease	1,780	20.9	216.1	105.2	936.9
Unintentional Injury	645	7.6	78.3	66.7	1,787.3
Stroke	469	5.5	57.0	26.3	170.7
Chronic Lower Respiratory Disease	384	4.5	46.6	21.3	151.5
Alzheimer's Disease	254	3.0	30.8	13.2	12.9
Diabetes	216	2.5	26.2	14.7	201.4
Chronic Liver Disease and Cirrhosis	161	1.9	19.6	13.9	300.9
COVID-19	155	1.8	18.8	9.4	77.7
Parkinson's Disease	151	1.8	18.3	7.9	11.0
Hypertension	128	1.5	15.5	7.7	72.1

Cause of Death	Deaths	Percent of Total Deaths	Crude Rate per 100,000	Age-Adjusted Death Rate per 100,000	YPLL <75 per 100,000 Under 75
Suicide	124	1.5	15.1	13.2	361.7
Nephritis, Nephrotic Syndrome, and Nephrosis	107	1.3	13.0	6.7	79.8
Influenza and Pneumonia	71	0.8	8.6	4.6	54.5
Septicemia	52	0.6	6.3	3.7	65.4
Benign Neoplasm	46	0.5	5.6	2.7	22.5
Pneumonitis	45	0.5	5.5	2.7	20.7
Atherosclerosis	44	0.5	5.3	2.3	8.9
Congenital Malformations	33	0.4	4.0	4.5	205.4
Nutritional Deficiencies	31	0.4	3.8	1.9	21.5
Homicide	28	0.3	3.4	3.7	132.7
Aortic Aneurysm and Dissection	27	0.3	3.3	1.8	23.3
Perinatal Period Conditions	20	0.2	2.4	3.6	210.8
HIV/AIDS	20	0.2	2.4	2.2	50.8
Anemias	15	0.2	1.8	1.1	16.3
Cholelithiasis and Other Gallbladder Disorders	11	0.1	1.3	0.6	0.6
Medical And Surgical Care Complications	10	0.1	1.2	0.8	9.8
Peptic Ulcer	7	0.1	0.9	0.4	2.5
Hernia	4	0.1	0.5	0.3	5.8
Pregnancy, Childbirth, and The Puerperium	2	0.0	0.2	0.3	10.5
Viral Hepatitis	1	0.0	0.1	0.1	2.3

Source: Florida Department of Health, Bureau of Vital Statistics

Years of Potential Life Lost

The top three causes of death that had the highest YPLL among people in Lee County are unintentional injury, cancer, and heart disease. These top three were consistent for the selected years in the table below.

Exhibit HC6: Population Top Ten Cause of Death Per Years of Potential Life Lost Under 75 Years of Age per 100,000, Lee County, 2013, 2018, 2023

Cause of Death	2013	2018	2023
Unintentional Injury	923.0	2,046.4	1,787.3
Cancer	1,781.6	1,661.5	1,408.4
Heart Disease	1121.1	1018.0	936.9
Suicide	378.3	481.6	361.7
Chronic Liver Disease and Cirrhosis	250.0	287.8	300.9
Perinatal Period Conditions	233.3	224.2	210.8
Congenital Malformations	112.8	119.1	205.4
Diabetes	223.1	245.2	201.4
Stroke	164.3	209.8	170.7
Chronic Lower Respiratory Disease	294.2	206.9	151.5

Source: Florida Department of Health, Bureau of Vital Statistics

The top three causes of death that had the highest YPLL among non-Hispanic white people in Lee County are unintentional injury, cancer, and heart disease. These top three were consistent for the selected years in the table below.

Exhibit HC7: Years of Potential Life Lost Under 75 Years of Age per 100,000 Population, Top Ten Cause of Death, Non-Hispanic White, Lee County, 2013, 2018, 2023

Cause of Death	2013	2018	2023
Unintentional Injury	921.7	1,808.2	1,808.2
Cancer	2,182.1	1,731.0	1,731.0
Heart Disease	1377.5	1045.7	1,045.7
Suicide	454.3	464.2	464.2
Chronic Liver Disease and Cirrhosis	333.7	381.8	381.8
Chronic Lower Respiratory Disease	388.2	218.0	218.0
Diabetes	230.5	198.9	198.9
Perinatal Period Conditions	57.7	175.4	175.4
Stroke	166.6	170.8	170.8
Congenital Malformations	90.9	136.3	136.3

Source: Florida Department of Health, Bureau of Vital Statistics

The top three causes of death with the highest YPLL among Non-Hispanic Black people in Lee County were inconsistent in the selected years in the table below. In 2013, homicide, perinatal period conditions, and heart disease were the top three causes of death with the highest YPLL. In 2023, those had changed to heart disease, unintentional injuries, and cancer. The homicide rate among Non-Hispanic Black people in Lee County decreased significantly from 2013 to 2023 (1512.2 2013, 769.0 2023).

Exhibit HC8: Years of Potential Life Lost Under 75 Years of Age per 100,000 Population, Top Ten Cause of Death, Non-Hispanic Black, Lee County, 2013, 2018, 2023

Cause of Death	2013	2018	2023
Heart Disease	1026.2	181.9	1,965.2
Unintentional Injury	817.8	1,871.6	1,785.2
Cancer	1449.0	1250.2	1,046.4
Homicide	1512.2	1332.8	769.0
Congenital Malformations	147.9	44.9	514.5
Diabetes	307.7	549.6	453.4
HIV/AIDS	269.9	443.7	269.5
Suicide	349.3	305.4	266.4
Perinatal Period Conditions	1330.9	668.2	236.2
Chronic Liver Disease and Cirrhosis	105.2	44.9	201.4

Source: Florida Department of Health, Bureau of Vital Statistics

The top three causes of death that had the highest YPLL among Hispanic people in Lee County are unintentional injury, cancer, and heart disease. These top three were consistent for the selected years in the table below.

Exhibit HC9: Years of Potential Life Lost Under 75 Years of Age per 100,000 Population, Top Ten Cause of Death, Hispanic, Lee County, 2013, 2018, 2023

Cause of Death	2013	2018	2023
Unintentional Injury	977.3	1,592.5	1,729.1
Cancer	795.2	953.0	855.3
Heart Disease	421.5	406.5	369.8
Congenital Malformations	186.2	76.8	231.9
Perinatal Period Conditions	375	251.9	231.9
Suicide	199.6	356.4	190.9
Chronic Liver Disease and Cirrhosis	31.0	136.0	187.3
Diabetes	166.1	106.9	136.4
Septicemia	0.0	0.0	125.5
Homicide	182.9	141.0	111.5

Source: Florida Department of Health, Bureau of Vital Statistics

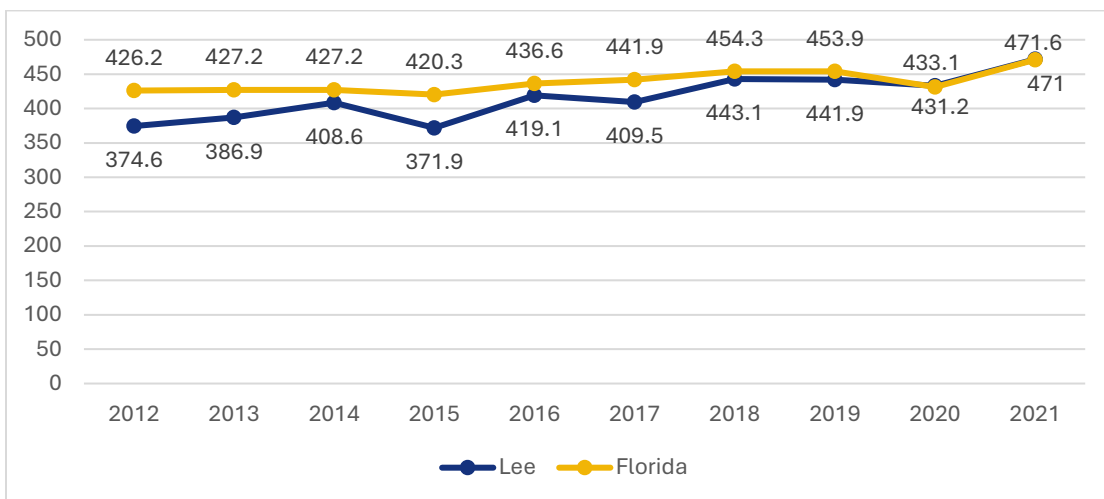


Source: Photo courtesy of NCH

Cancer

From 2012 to 2021, Lee County experienced an increase in new cases of cancer. Lee County experienced its highest rate of new cases in 2021 (471.6 per 100,000). When compared to the Florida average, Lee County has a very similar rate of cancer incidence (471.6 Lee, 471.0 Florida, 2023).

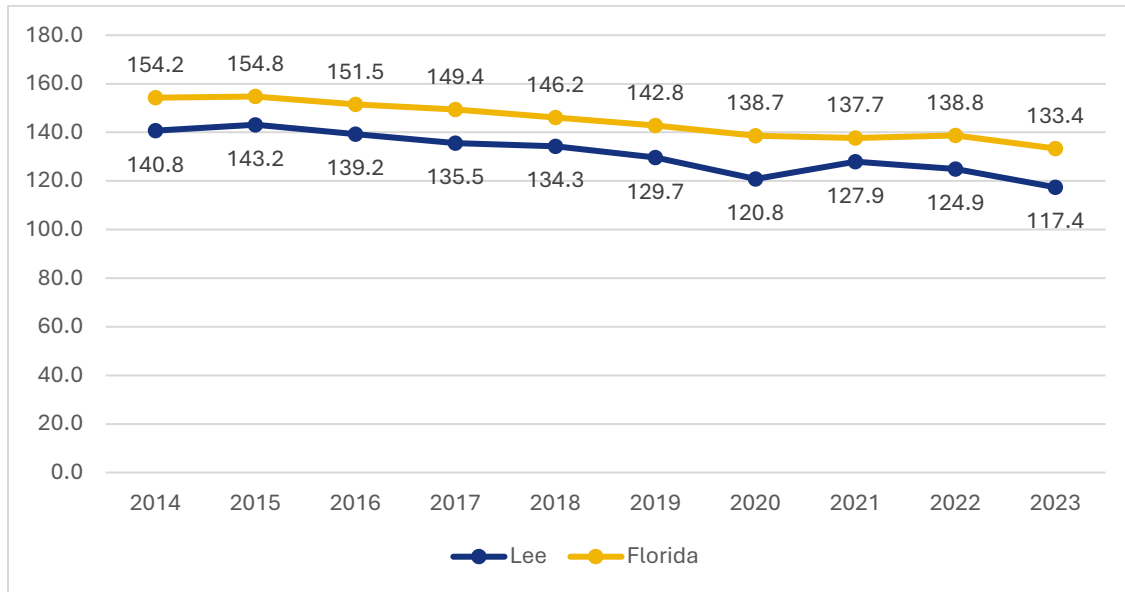
Exhibit HC10: Age-Adjusted Cancer Incidence, Rate per 100,000 Population, Lee County and Florida, 2012-2021



Source: University of Miami (FL) Medical School, Florida Cancer Data System

Since 2014, in Lee County, the overall cancer death rate has decreased. Even though more people have been diagnosed with cancer, fewer people are dying from cancer. Lee County's cancer death rate is lower than the Florida average (117.4 Lee, 133.4 Florida, 2023).

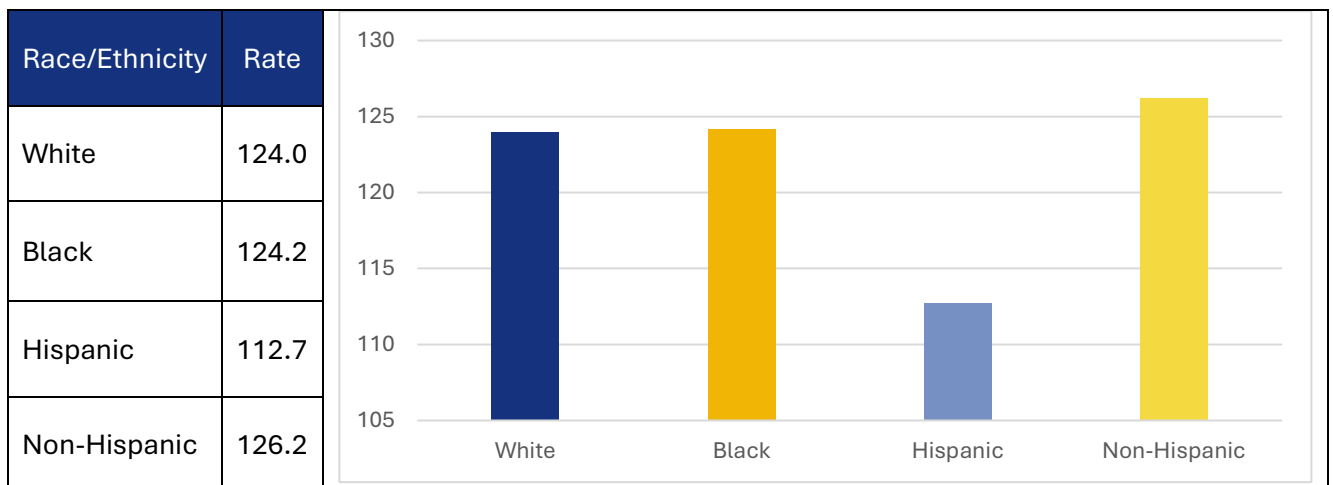
Exhibit HC11: Age-Adjusted Deaths from Cancer, Rate per 100,000 Population, Lee County and Florida, 2014-2023



Source: Florida Department of Health, Bureau of Vital Statistics

The age-adjusted death rate from cancer is the lowest among the Hispanic population in Lee County. The non-Hispanic population had the highest cancer death rate when compared to other races and ethnicities.

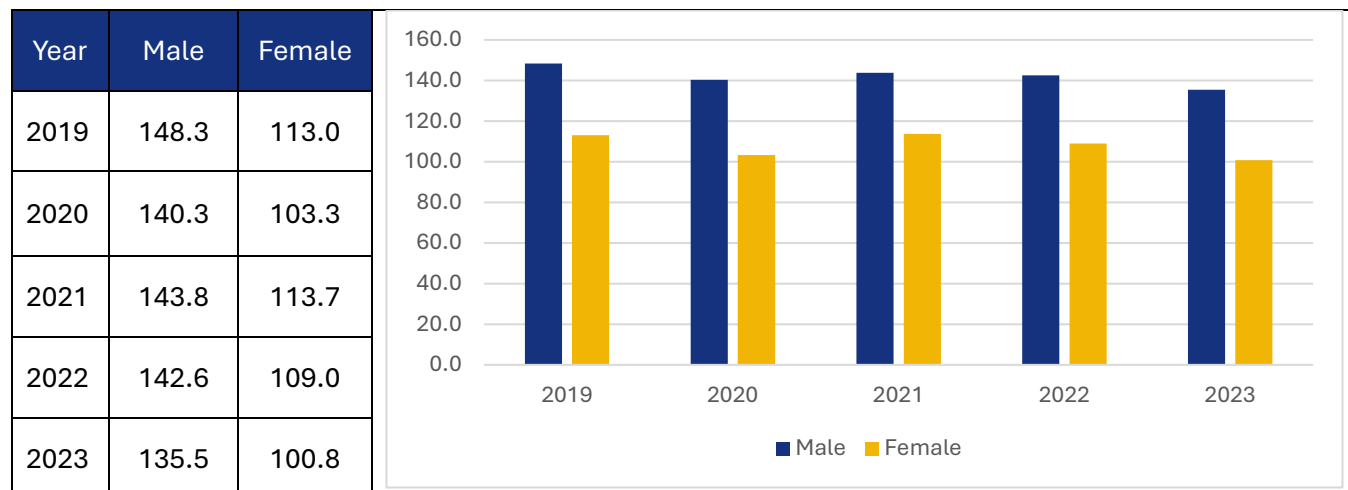
Exhibit HC12: Cancer Deaths by Race and Ethnicity, 3-Year Age-Adjusted Rate per 100,000 Population, Lee County 2021-2023



Source: Florida Department of Health, Bureau of Vital Statistics

Males in Lee County consistently had a higher cancer death rate when compared to females. Since 2019, the overall rate of cancer deaths among both females and males has decreased.

Exhibit HC13: Cancer Deaths by Sex, Age-Adjusted Rate per 100,000 Population, Lee County, 2019-2023



Source: Florida Department of Health, Bureau of Vital Statistics

The most common types of cancer in Lee County were female breast and prostate cancer. However, lung cancer was the deadliest among those diagnosed with cancer.

Exhibit HC14: Common Types of Cancer, 3-Year Incidence Rate and Age-Adjusted Death Rate, Lee County, 2020-2022, 2021-2023

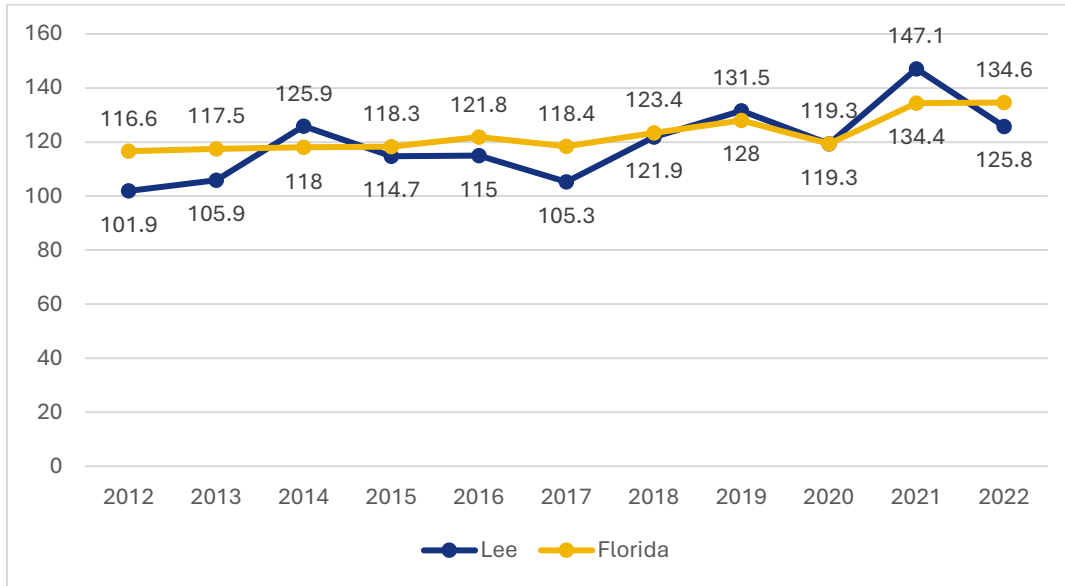
	Incidence Rate, 2020-2022	Age-Adjusted Death Rate, 2021-2023
Female Breast Cancer	130.6	16.8
Prostate Cancer	78.0	11.3
Lung Cancer	51.0	27.3
Melanoma, Skin Cancer	37.7	2.0
Colorectal Cancer	32.2	9.7
Oral Cancer	14.5	3.1
Cervical Cancer	8.9	2.4

Source: University of Miami (FL) Medical School, Florida Cancer Data System; Florida Department of Health, Bureau of Vital Statistics

Breast Cancer

In 2021, Lee County saw its highest breast cancer rate of new breast cancer diagnoses, 147.1 per 100,000. Lee County's rate of breast cancer incidence is higher than the state average (147.1 Lee, 134.4 Florida, 2021). The rate of new breast cancer diagnoses decreased and is lower than the state average in 2022.

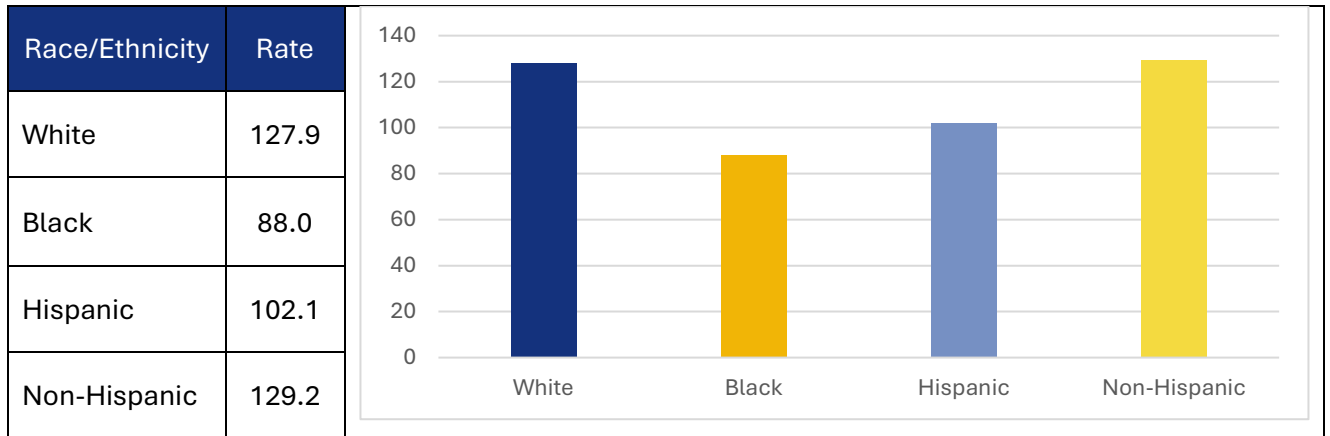
Exhibit HC15: Age-Adjusted Female Breast Cancer Incidence, Rate per 100,000 Female Population, Lee County and Florida, 2012-2022



Source: University of Miami (FL) Medical School, Florida Cancer Data System

The non-Hispanic population in Lee County had the highest incidence, while the black population had the lowest incidence of being diagnosed with breast cancer in 2022.

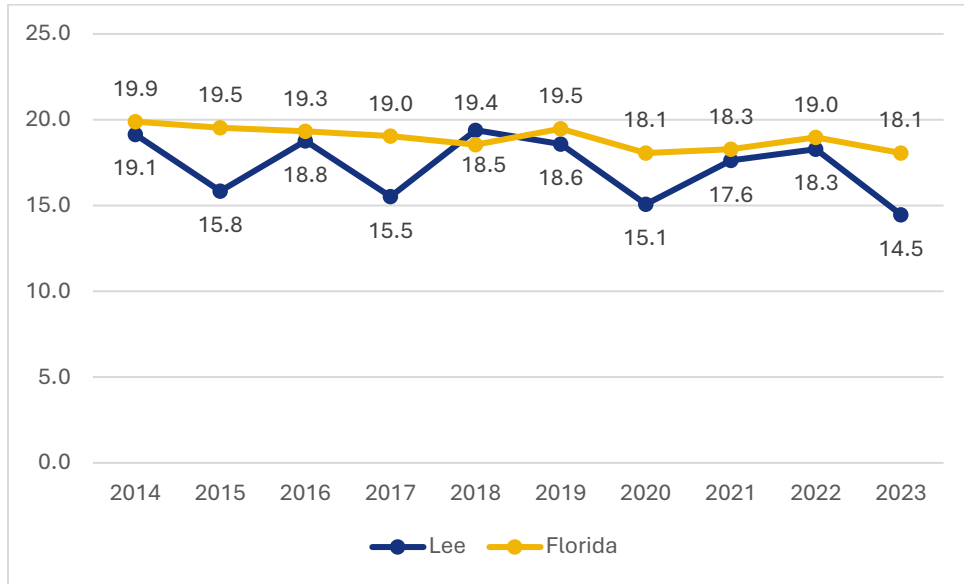
Exhibit HC16: Age-Adjusted Female Breast Cancer Incidence by Race and Ethnicity, Rate per 100,000 Female Population, Lee County, 2022



Source: University of Miami (FL) Medical School, Florida Cancer Data System

In 2023, there was a decline in the death rate from breast cancer in Lee County; the death rate was 14.5 per 100,000. Lee County's breast cancer death rate was lower than the Florida average (14.5 Lee, 18.1 Florida, 2023).

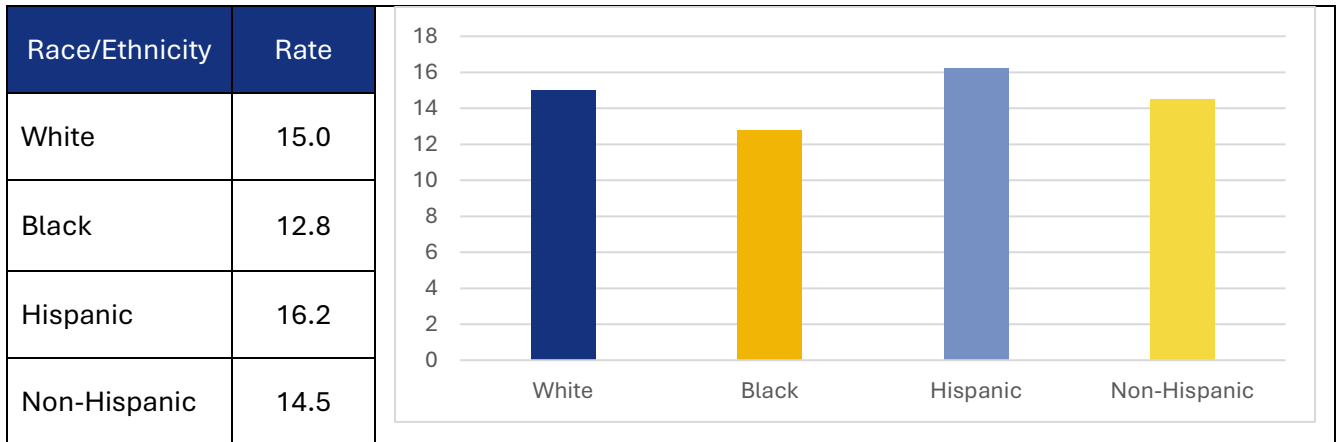
Exhibit HC17: Age-Adjusted Deaths from Female Breast Cancer, Rate per 100,000 Female Population, Lee County, 2014-2023



Source: Florida Department of Health, Bureau of Vital Statistics

In Lee County in 2023, the Hispanic population had the highest death rate from female breast cancer, while the Black population had the lowest rate.

Exhibit HC18: Age-Adjusted Deaths from Female Breast Cancer by Race and Ethnicity, Rate per 100,000 Female Population, Lee County, 2023

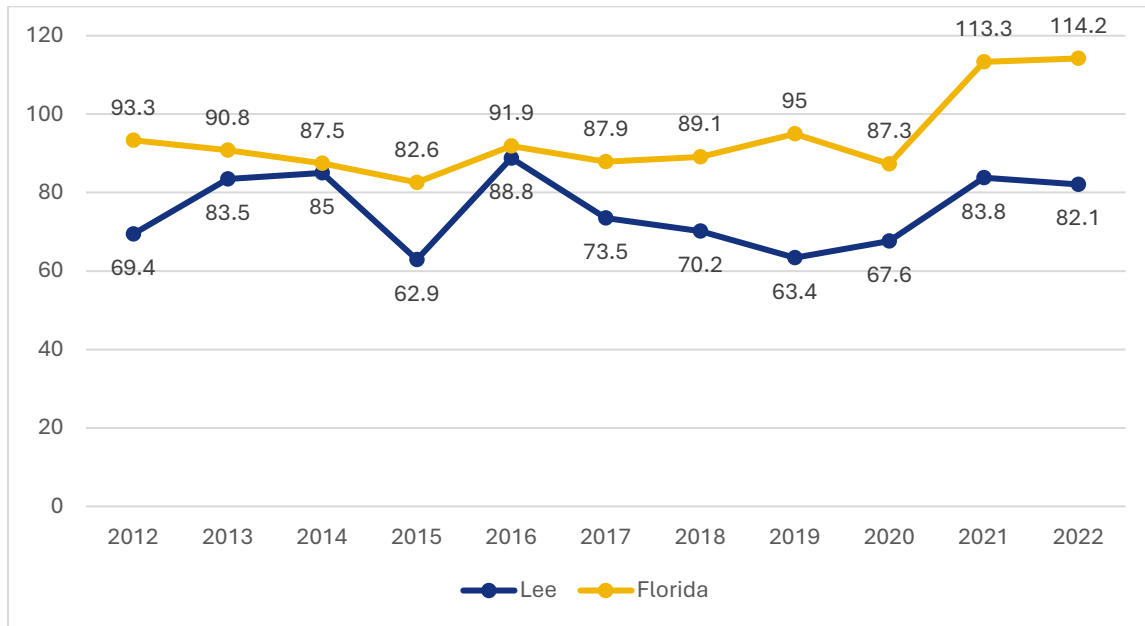


Source: Florida Department of Health, Bureau of Vital Statistics

Prostate Cancer

Prostate cancer is the second most common type of cancer in Lee County. In 2016, Lee County saw its highest rate of new prostate cancer diagnoses, 88.8 per 100,000. That rate has fluctuated since then. In 2022, the rate was 82.1 per 100,000 compared with a state average of 114.2 per 100,000.

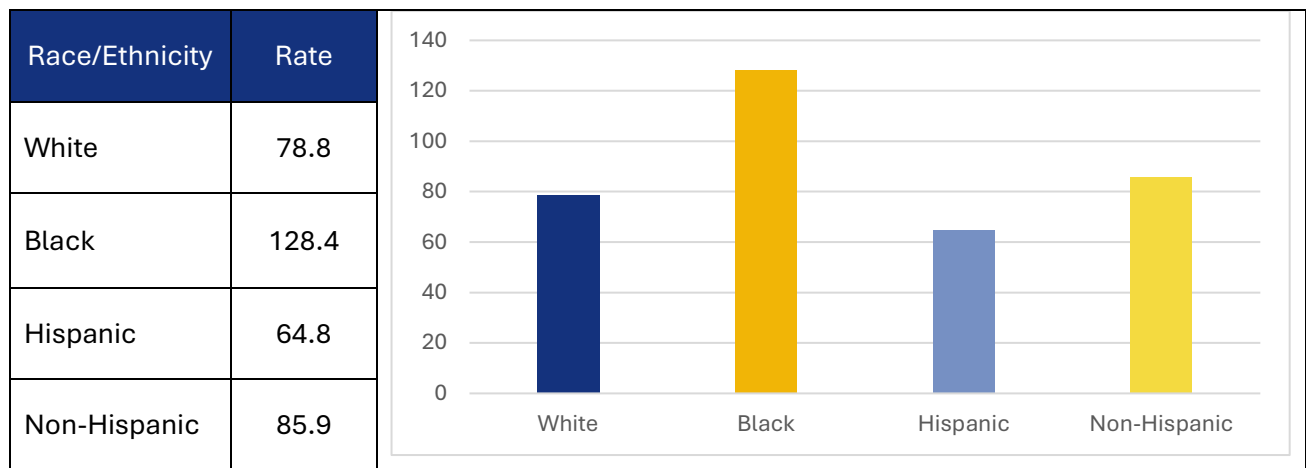
Exhibit HC19: Age-Adjusted Prostate Cancer Incidence, Rate per 100,000 Male Population, Lee County and Florida, 2012-2022



Source: University of Miami (FL) Medical School, Florida Cancer Data System

The black population had the highest rate of new prostate cancer diagnoses, and Hispanics had the lowest rate in Lee County.

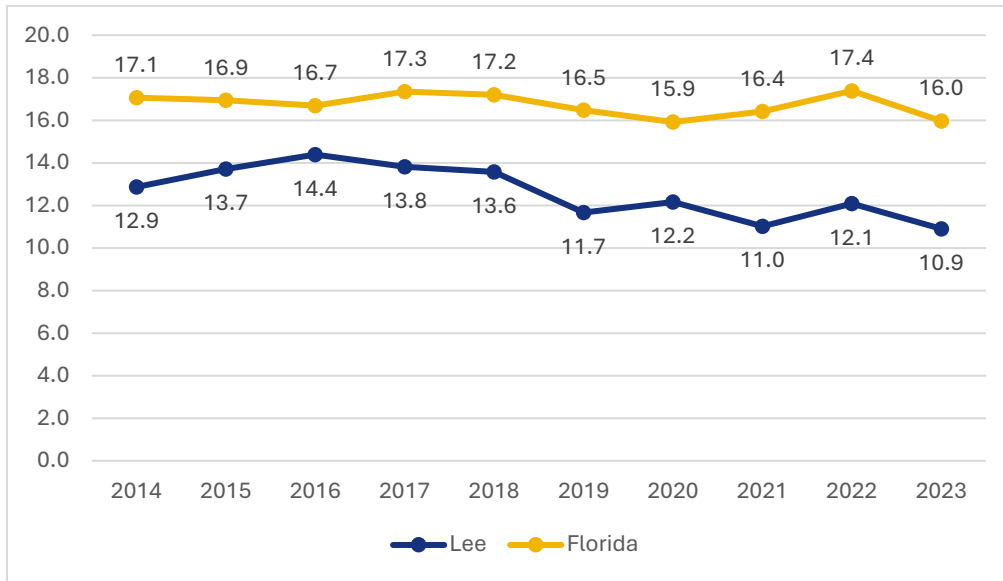
Exhibit HC20: Age-Adjusted Prostate Cancer Incidence by Race and Ethnicity, Rate per 100,000 Male Population, Lee County, 2022



Source: University of Miami (FL) Medical School, Florida Cancer Data System

2016 was the deadliest year for those with prostate cancer in Lee County. From 2016- 2023 the rate declined to 10.9 per 100,000 males. When compared to the Florida average, Lee County's prostate cancer death rate was significantly lower (10.9 Lee, 16.0 Florida, 2023).

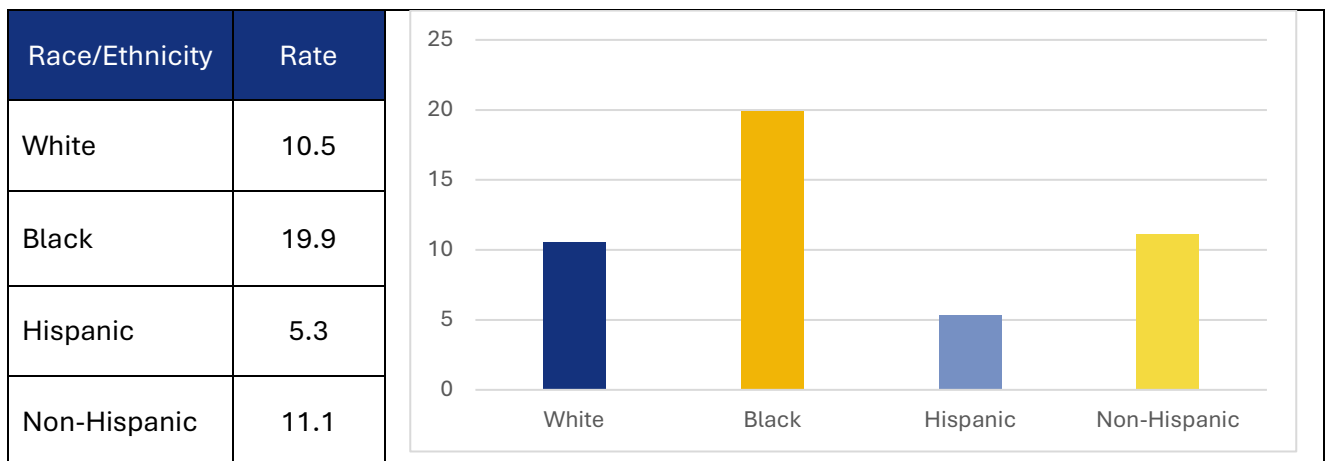
Exhibit HC21: Age-Adjusted Prostate Cancer Death, Rate per 100,000 Male Population, Lee County and Florida, 2014-2023



Source: Florida Department of Health, Bureau of Vital Statistics

In 2023, the Black population had the highest rate of death from prostate cancer. The Hispanic population had the lowest death rate from prostate cancer.

Exhibit HC22: Age-Adjusted Prostate Cancer Death by Race and Ethnicity, Rate per 100,000 Male Population, Lee County, 2023

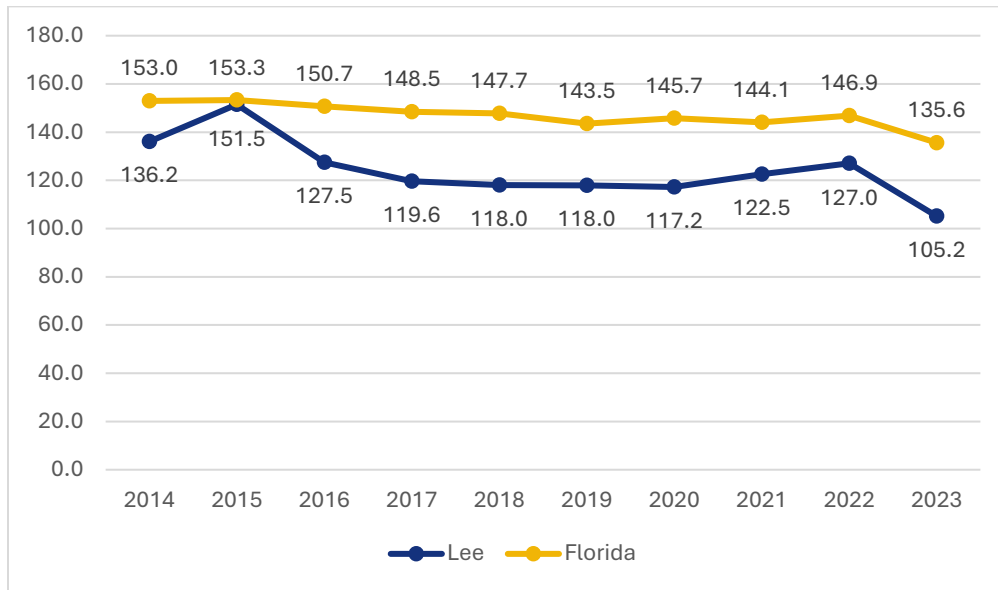


Source: Florida Department of Health, Bureau of Vital Statistics

Heart Disease

Over the past 10 years the overall death rate from heart disease in Lee County has decreased. Lee County's heart disease death rate is less than the Florida average from (105.2 Lee, 135.6 Florida, 2023).

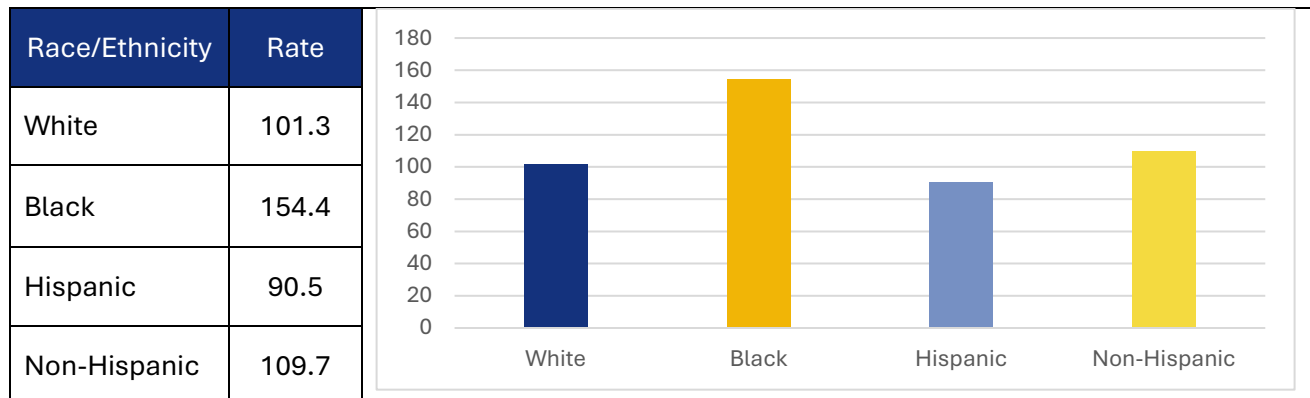
Exhibit HC23: Age-Adjusted Deaths from Heart Diseases, Rate per 100,000 Population, Lee County and Florida, 2014-2023



Source: Florida Department of Health, Bureau of Vital Statistics

In 2023, the Black population in Lee County had the highest rate of death from heart disease. The Hispanic population had the lowest death rate from heart disease.

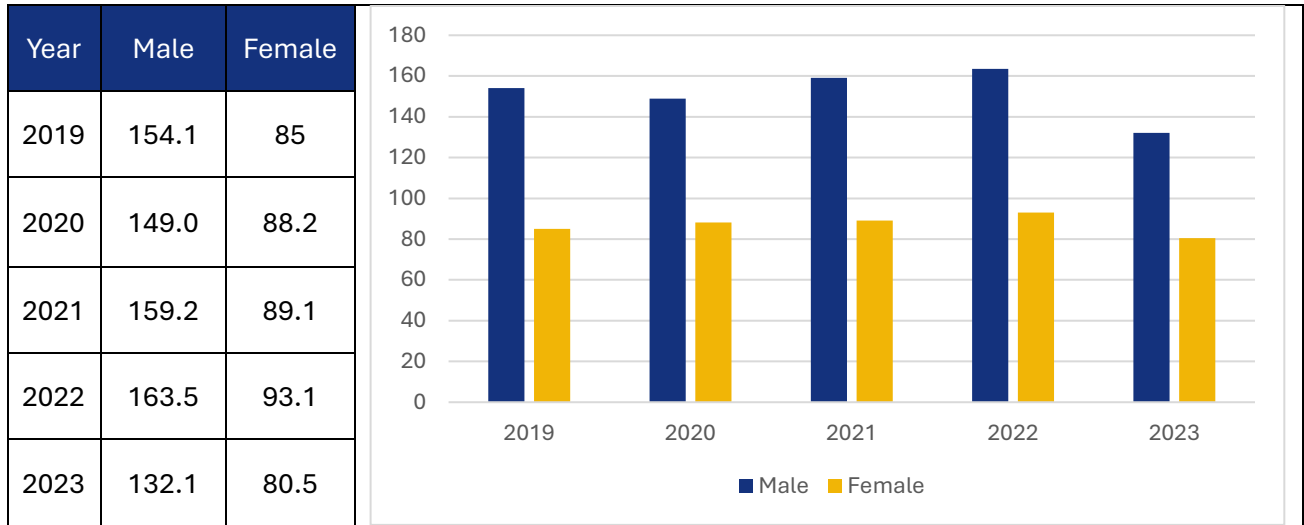
Exhibit HC24: Age-Adjusted Death from Heart Diseases by Race and Ethnicity, Rate per 100,000 Population, Lee County, 2023



Source: Florida Department of Health, Bureau of Vital Statistics

Males die at a higher rate from heart disease compared to females. Both males and females in Lee County saw a decline in deaths from heart disease between 2019 and 2023.

Exhibit HC25: Age-Adjusted Death from Heart Diseases by Sex, Rate per 100,000 Population, Lee County, 2023

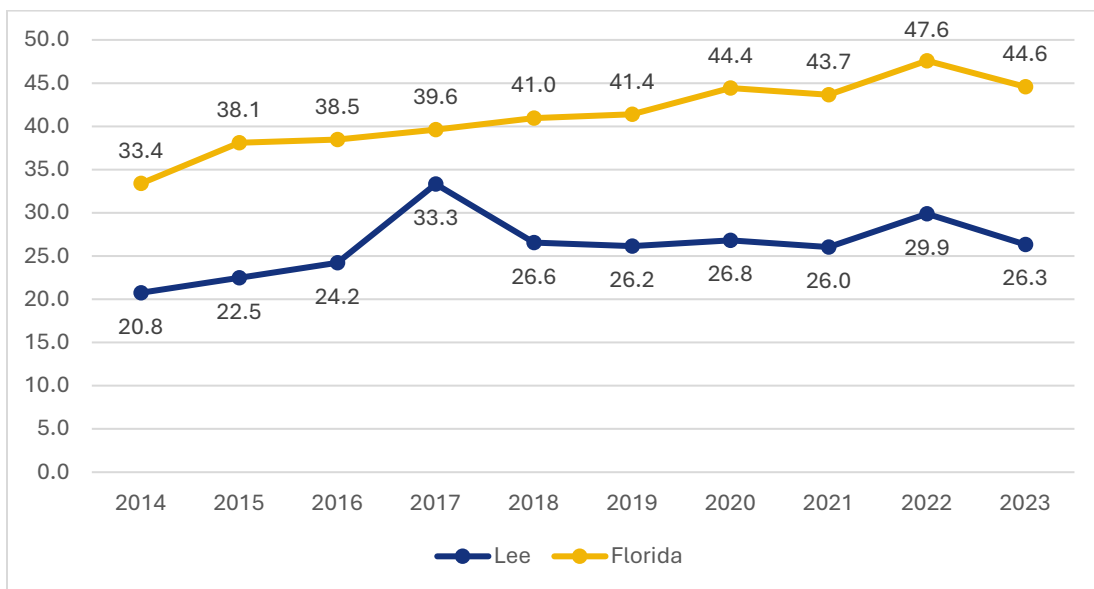


Source: Florida Department of Health, Bureau of Vital Statistics

Stroke

Lee County has seen a slight increase in the death rate from strokes between 2014 and 2023; however, there was a decrease from 2022 to 2023. Lee County has a lower death rate from stroke than the state average (26.3 Lee, 44.6 Florida, 2023).

Exhibit HC26: Age-Adjusted Deaths from Stroke, Rate per 100,000 Population, Lee County and Florida, 2014-2023

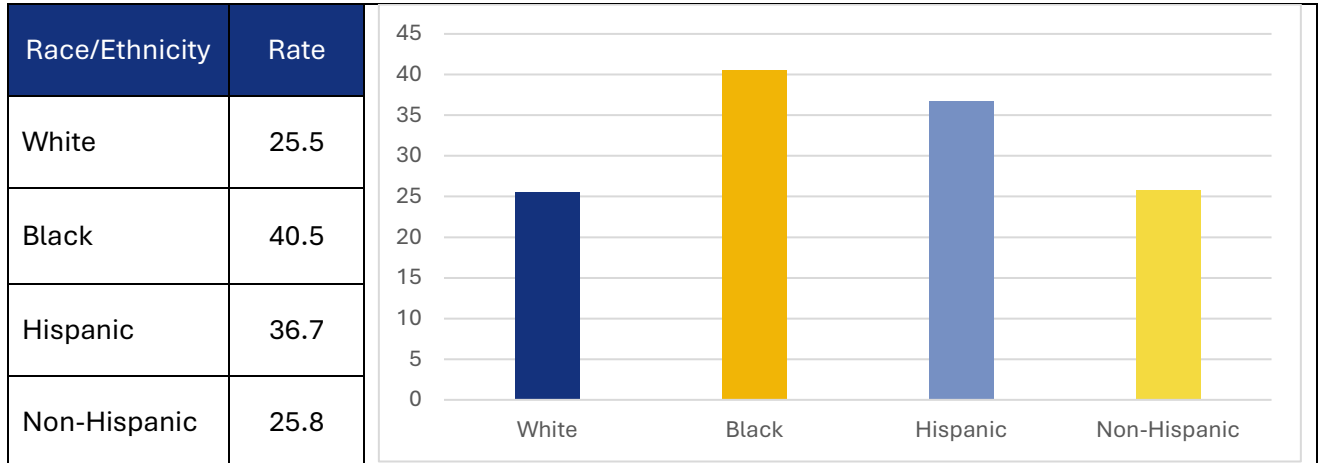


Source: Florida Department of Health, Bureau of Vital Statistics

2025 Lee County Community Health Assessment: Health Conditions

Both Blacks and Hispanics have a higher death rate from strokes when compared to other races and ethnicities in Lee County.

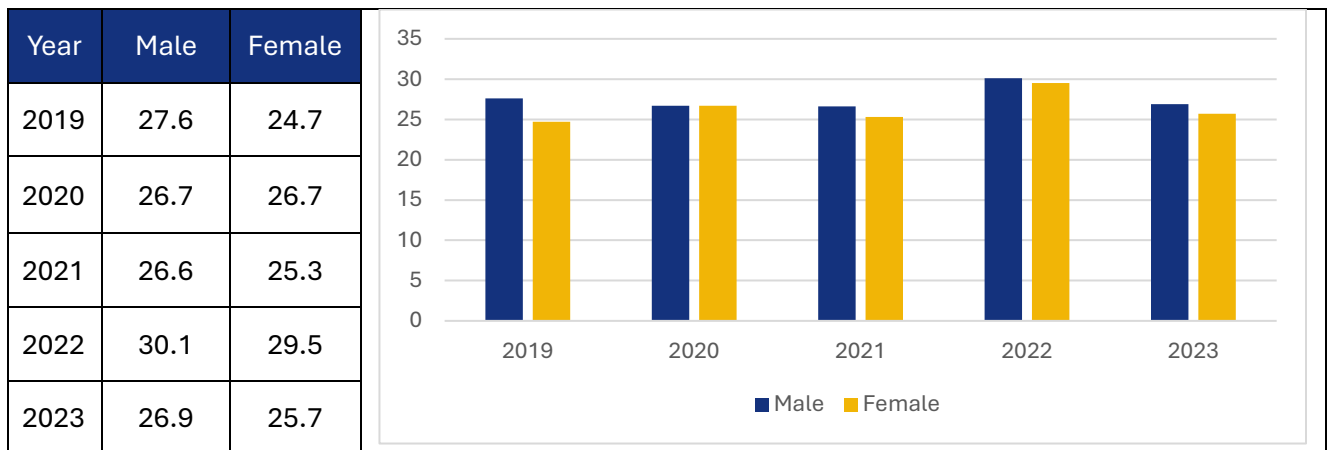
Exhibit HC27: Age-Adjusted Deaths from Stroke by Race and Ethnicity, Rate per 100,000, Lee County, 2023



Source: Florida Department of Health, Bureau of Vital Statistics

The death rate for strokes in Lee County tends to be slightly higher for males than for females. The two sexes tend to follow the same trends.

Exhibit HC28: Age-Adjusted Deaths from Stroke by Sex, Rate per 100,000 Population, Lee County, 2019-2023



Source: Florida Department of Health, Bureau of Vital Statistics

Aging Population Health

Among those 65 and over in Lee County, cancer and heart disease are the two leading causes of death, responsible for more than sixty percent of all deaths. In 2016, heart disease was the leading cause; in 2023, it switched to cancer.

Exhibit HC29: The 10 Leading Causes of Death, 65 Years and Over, Lee County, 2016 and 2023

2023		
Leading Cause of Death	Number of Deaths	Percentage Distribution
Cancer	1529	30.8%
Heart Disease	1525	30.7%
Stroke	430	8.7%
Chronic Lower Respiratory Disease	346	7.0%
Unintentional Injury	283	5.7%
Alzheimer's Disease	252	5.1%
Diabetes	161	3.2%
Parkinson's Disease	149	3.0%
COVID-19	135	2.7%
Nephritis, Nephrotic Syndrome &Nephrosis	88	1.8%

2016		
Leading Cause of Death	Number of Deaths	Percentage Distribution
Heart Disease	1354	32.3%
Cancer	1331	31.8%
Chronic Lower Respiratory Disease	408	9.7%
Stroke	292	7.0%
Alzheimer's Disease	222	5.3%
Unintentional Injury	221	5.3%
Diabetes	206	4.9%
Parkinson's Disease	82	2.0%
Nephritis, Nephrotic Syndrome &Nephrosis	40	1.0%
Dementia	36	0.9%

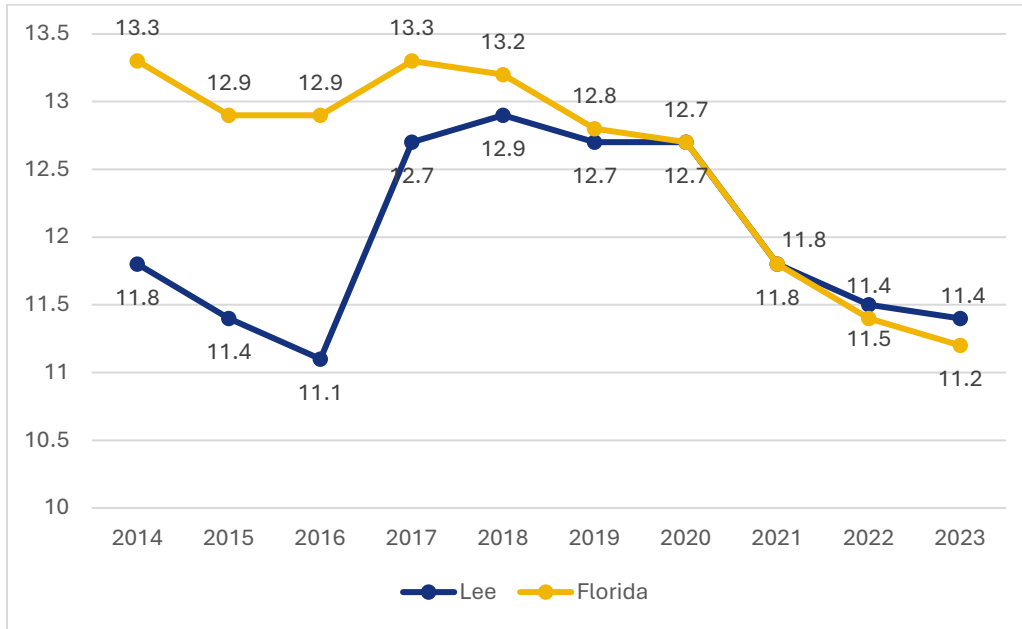
Source: Florida Department of Health, Bureau of Vital Statistics

Alzheimer's disease is the most common cause of dementia and can account for up to 80 percent of all cases of the condition. First identified over 100 years ago, research on its symptoms, causes, risk factors, and treatment did not gain significant momentum until the last 30 years. Alzheimer's disease is usually diagnosed by a primary care physician utilizing the patient's medical and family history, as well as any psychiatric, cognitive, and behavioral history. Neurological, physical, and cognitive examinations and tests are also conducted as part of the diagnosis process. The definitive cause of Alzheimer's remains unknown at this time, although it is widely accepted that, as in other chronic diseases, multiple factors are involved in the development of the disease.

In Lee County, Alzheimer's disease was the sixth leading cause of death in the population 65 years of age and older in 2023.

It is hard to know the actual number of people living with Alzheimer's disease, but below is an estimate of the number of people in Lee County with Alzheimer's. It is estimated that 11.4 percent of the people aged 65 or higher in Lee County in 2023 had Alzheimer's disease.

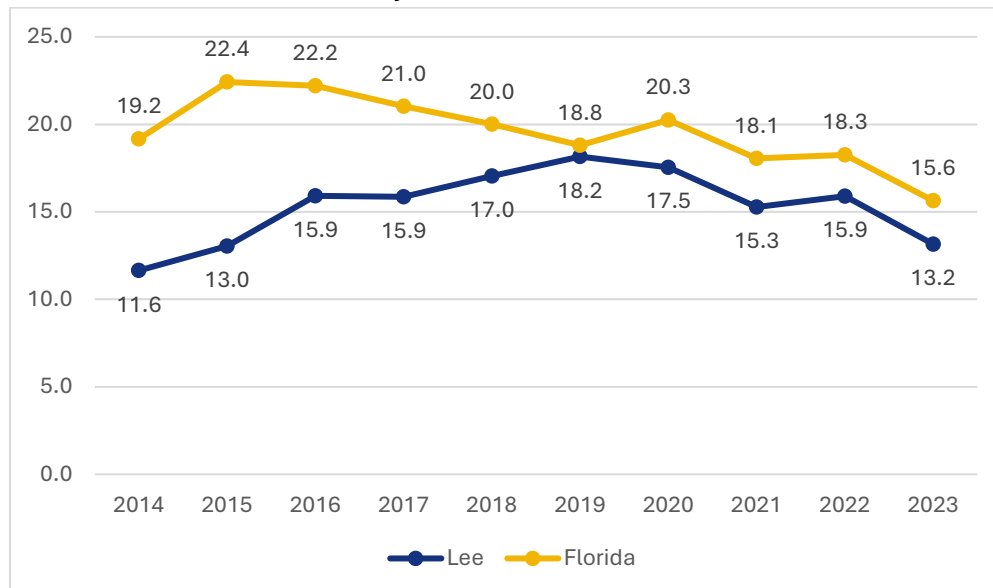
Exhibit HC30: Probable Alzheimer's Cases (65+), Percentage of Population 65+, Lee County and Florida, 2014-2023



Source: Alzheimer's Association, Alzheimer's Disease Facts and Figures

The death rate from Alzheimer's Disease in Lee County is slightly lower than the state average (13.2 Lee, 15.6 Florida, 2023). It has declined since 2019, when it reached a high of 18.2 in Lee County.

Exhibit HC31: Age-Adjusted Deaths from Alzheimer's Disease, Rate per 100,000 Population, Lee County and Florida, 2014-2023

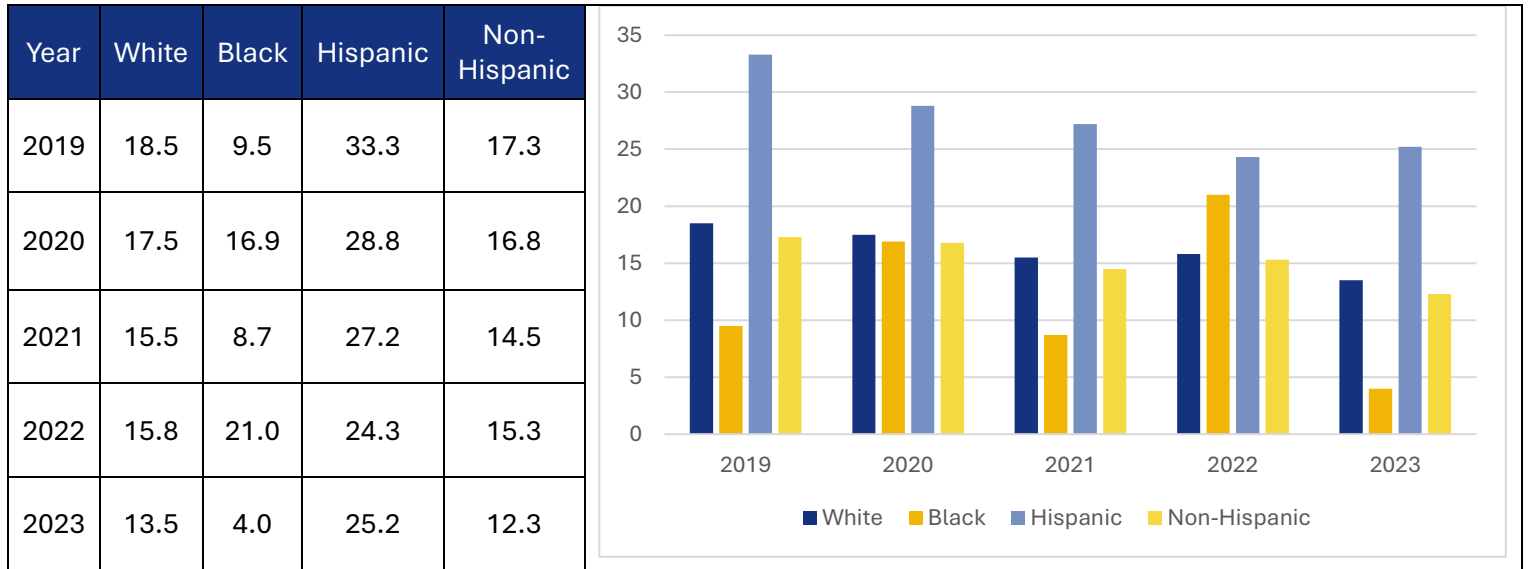


Source: Florida Department of Health, Bureau of Vital Statistics

2025 Lee County Community Health Assessment: Health Conditions

In Lee County, Hispanics have a significantly higher Alzheimer's death rate when compared to other races and ethnicities. Black people in Lee County generally have one of the lowest death rates from Alzheimer's Disease.

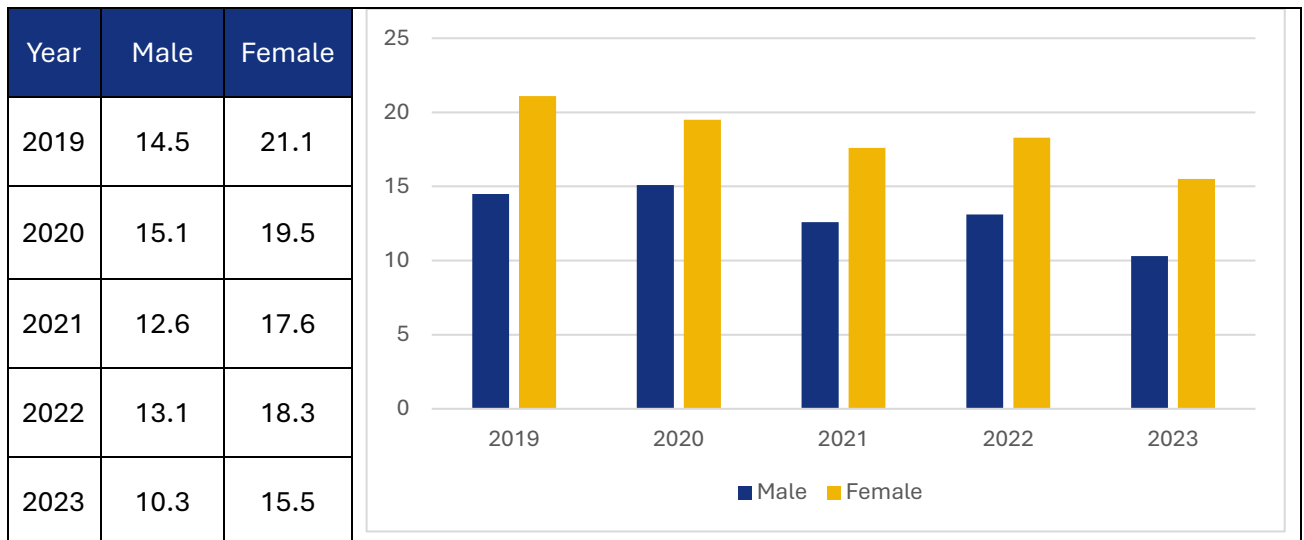
Exhibit HC32: Age-Adjusted Deaths from Alzheimer's Disease by Race and Ethnicity, Rate per 100,000 Population, Lee County, 2019-2023



Source: Florida Department of Health, Bureau of Vital Statistics

Females in Lee County consistently had a higher Alzheimer's death rate when compared to males from 2019 to 2023.

Exhibit HC33: Age-Adjusted Deaths from Alzheimer's Disease by Sex, Rate per 100,000 Population, Lee County, 2019-2023

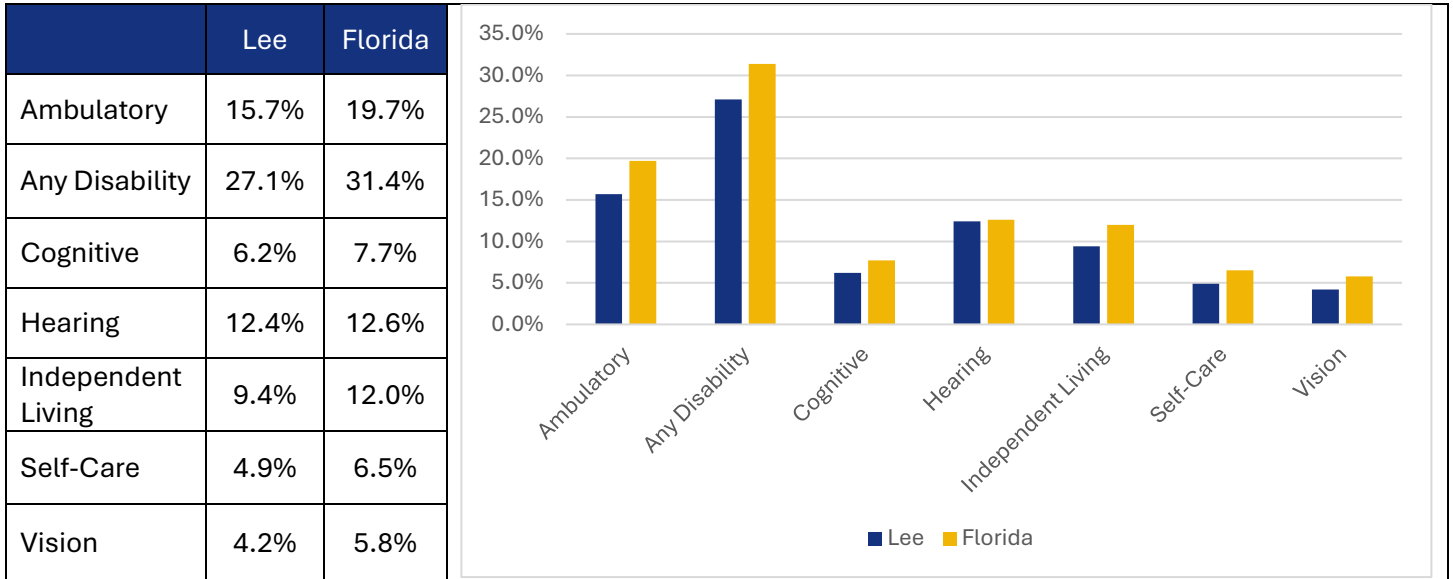


Source: Florida Department of Health, Bureau of Vital Statistics

2025 Lee County Community Health Assessment: Health Conditions

Lee County has a lower percentage of seniors with a disability status in every category when compared to the Florida average.

Exhibit HC34: Disability Status, Percent of Population Aged 65 and Over, Lee County and Florida, 2023



Source: United States Bureau of the Census, American Community Survey, 5-year estimates



Source: Photo courtesy of NCH

Behavioral Health

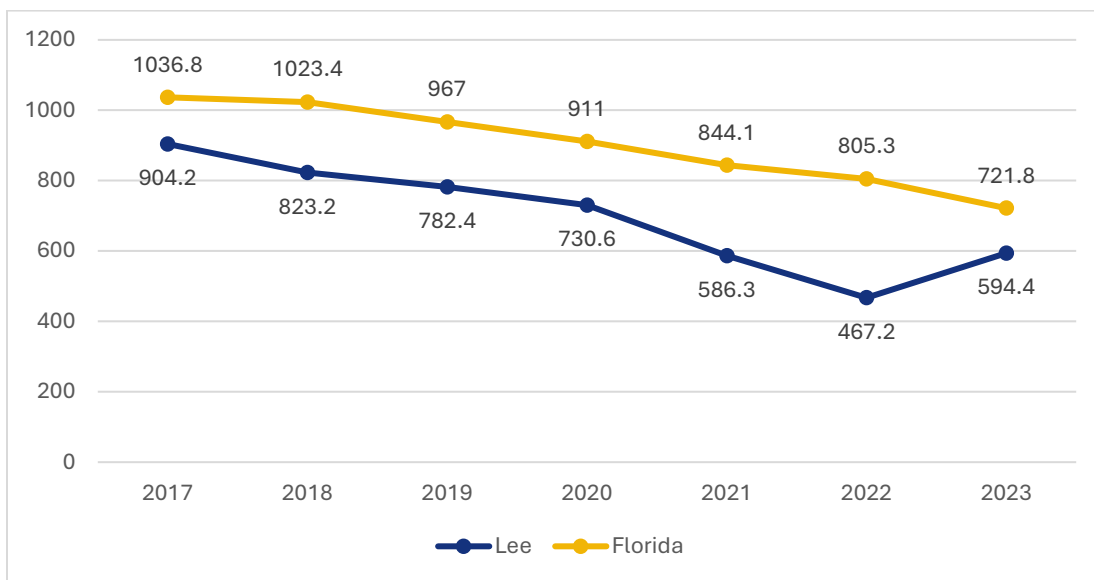
The Florida Mental Health Act of 1971 (commonly known as the “Baker Act”) is a statute allowing for the involuntary examination of an individual. It was originally enacted, at least in part, because of widespread instances of elder abuse in which one or more family members would have another family member committed to gain control over their estate prior to their death. Once committed, it was difficult for many other patients to obtain representation, and they became warehoused until their death. The Baker Act allows for involuntary examination (what some call emergency or involuntary commitment). It can be initiated by judges, law enforcement officials, physicians, or mental health professionals. There must be evidence that the person has a mental illness (as defined in the Baker Act) and is a harm to self, harm to others, or self-neglectful (as defined in the Baker Act). Examinations may last up to 72 hours and occur in over 100 facilities statewide.

There are many possible outcomes following the examination of the patient. This includes the release of the individual to the community (or other community placement), a petition for involuntary inpatient placement (what some call civil commitment), involuntary outpatient placement (what some call outpatient commitment or assisted treatment orders), or voluntary treatment (if the person is competent to consent to voluntary treatment and consents to voluntary treatment).

According to the Florida Baker Act Annual Report Fiscal Year 2023/2024, Lee County residents who received an involuntary examination were seen at SalusCare (59.98%) and Park Royal Hospital (27.38%).

From 2007 to 2022, there was a significant decrease in involuntary examinations in Lee County; however, there was an increase from 2022 to 2023. The rate of involuntary examinations in Lee County is lower than the state average (594.4 Lee, 721.8 Florida, 2023).

Exhibit HC35: Baker Act Involuntary Examinations, Rate per 100,000 Population, Lee County and Florida, 2017-2023



Source: Florida Department of Children and Families

The proportion of people in Lee County who receive involuntary examinations from each age group has remained fairly steady in the past five years. However, there has been a slight decrease in the percentage of those 65 and older receiving the exams.

Exhibit HC36: Involuntary Examinations: Residents of Lee County for 5 Years, 2019-2024

Fiscal year	All ages	Percent of Total			
		<18	18-24	25-64	65+
2023-2024	4,883	23.4%	13.7%	54.3%	7.9%
2022-2023	3,727	25.0%	14.5%	52.4%	8.1%
2021-2022	4,402	28.6%	13.7%	52.0%	5.7%
2020-2021	5,510	25.0%	13.0%	55.3%	6.7%
2019-2020	5,393	22.2%	12.7%	56.3%	8.7%

Source: Baker Act Reporting Center FY 2023/2024 Annual Report

During the 2023-24 fiscal year, 65.0 percent of involuntary examinations were initiated by law enforcement, 33.2 percent were initiated by those with a professional certificate, and 1.9 percent were initiated through an ex parte order. According to the Baker Annual Report, Physicians (who are not Psychiatrists) (58.49%) were the most common health professionals to initiate involuntary examinations, followed by Mental Health Counselors (12.11%), Clinical Social Workers (10.07%), Psychiatric Nurses (6.11%), Psychiatrists (5.99%), Physician Assistants (5.56%), Clinical Psychologists (1.11%), and Marriage and Family Therapists (<1%).

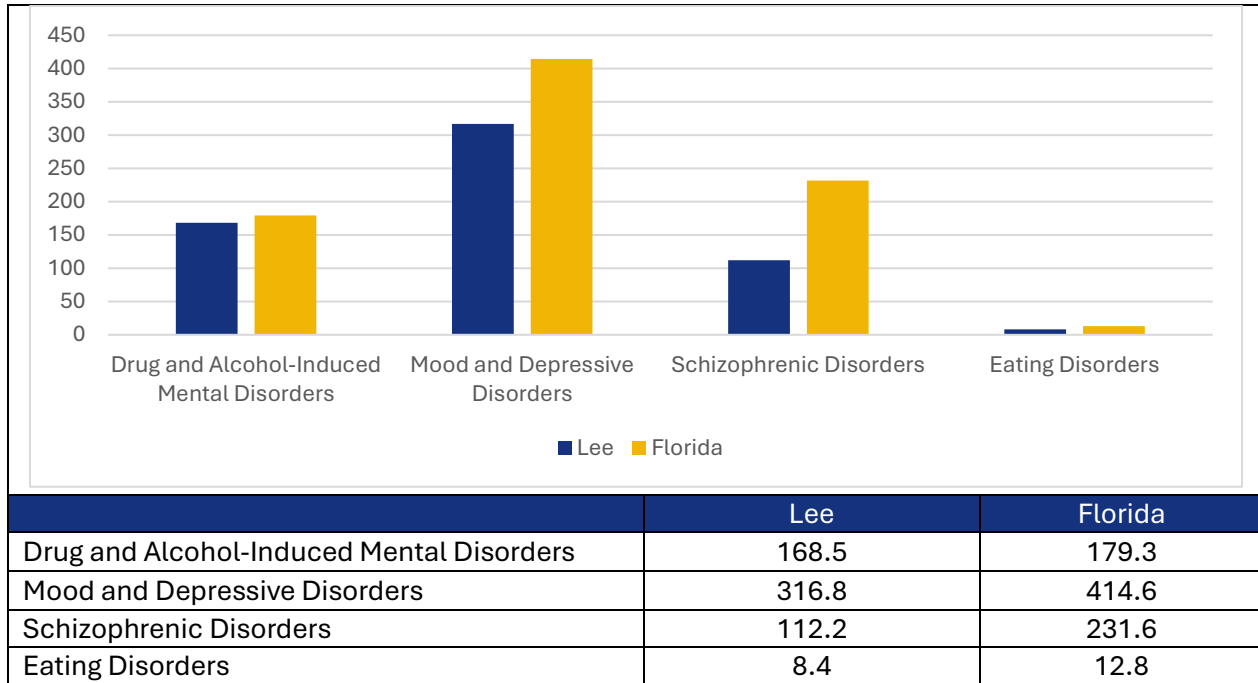
Exhibit HC37: Involuntary Examinations for Lee County Residents Percent of Total by Initiator Type, 2019-2024

Fiscal year	Law Enforcement	Health Professional	Ex-Parte
2023-2024	65.0%	33.2%	1.9%
2022-2023	65.4%	32.4%	2.2%
2021-2022	66.4%	32.4%	1.2%
2020-2021	66.7%	32.3%	1.0%
2019-2020	61.9%	37.5%	0.6%

Source: Baker Act Reporting Center FY 2023/2024 Annual Report

In Lee County in 2023, the most common hospitalizations for mental and behavioral health disorders were for mood and depressive disorders, while eating disorders had the smallest percentage. When compared to the Florida average, Lee County experienced a lower rate of hospitalizations for all types of mental and behavioral health disorders. It is worth noting that the availability of services can significantly impact the number of hospitalizations.

Exhibit HC38: Hospitalizations for Mental and Behavioral Health Disorders, All Ages, Rate per 100,000 Population, Lee County and Florida, 2023

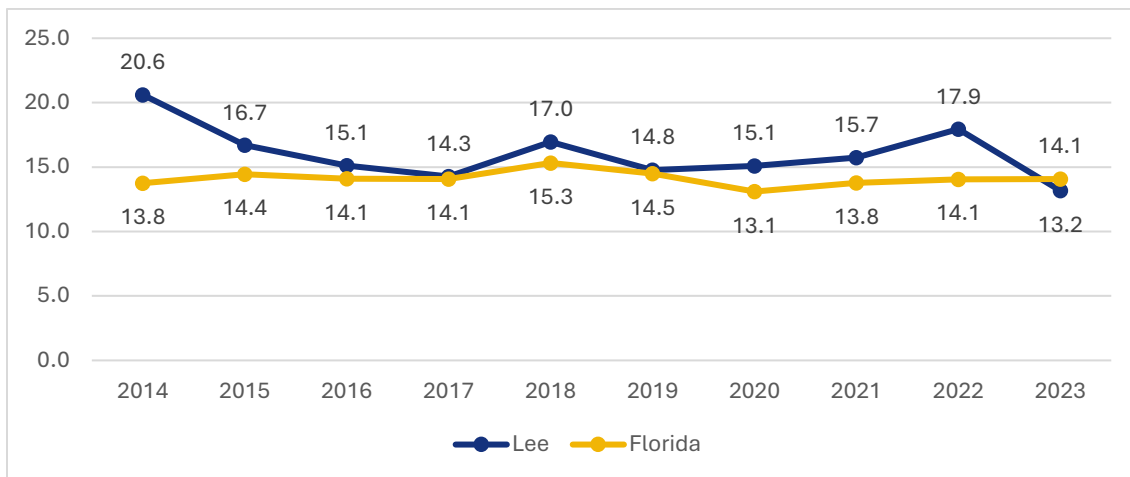


Source: Florida Agency for Health Care Administration (AHCA)

Suicide is a significant preventable public health problem in the United States. Several risk factors, including a history of depression or other mental illnesses, a family history of suicide, and previous suicide attempts, can increase the likelihood of someone attempting or dying from suicide.

Over the past decade, Lee County generally had a similar or higher rate of suicide than the average for the state; however, in 2023, the rate for Lee County was lower than the state average (13.2 Lee, 14.1 Florida).

Exhibit HC39: Age-Adjusted Suicide Deaths, Rate per 100,000 Population, Lee County and Florida, 2014-2023

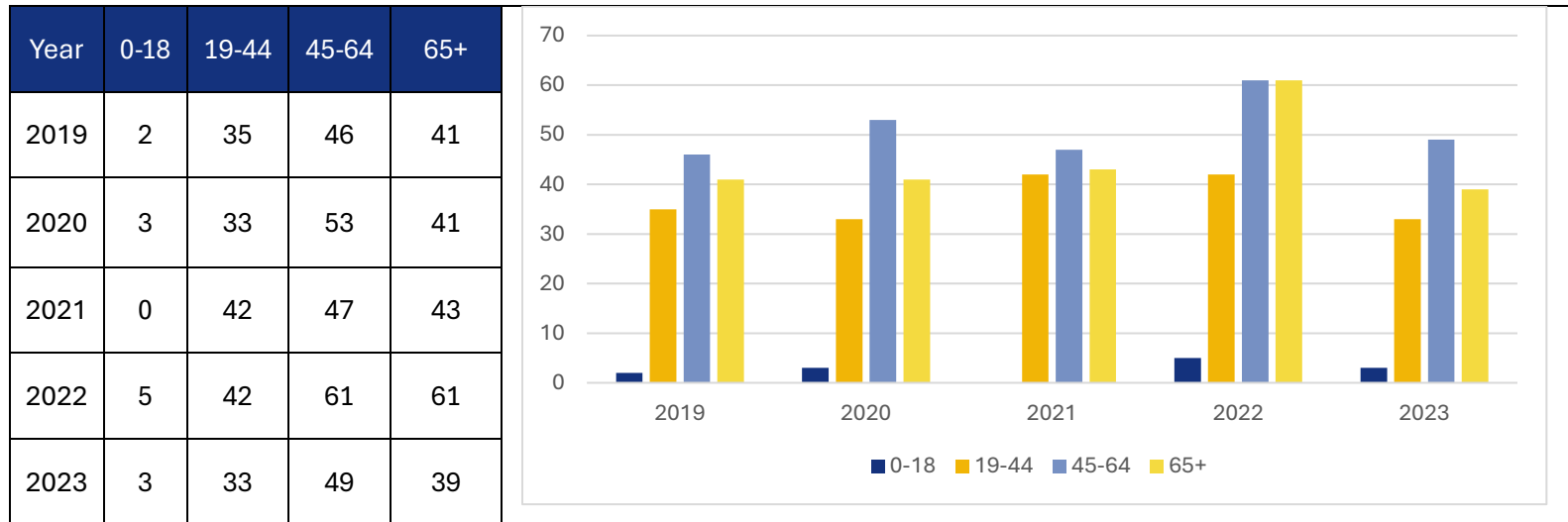


Source: Florida Department of Health, Bureau of Vital Statistics

2025 Lee County Community Health Assessment: Health Conditions

Since 2019, the largest number of suicide deaths in Lee County has been among those aged 45-64, except in 2022 when those aged 45-64 and 65+ had the highest number of suicide deaths.

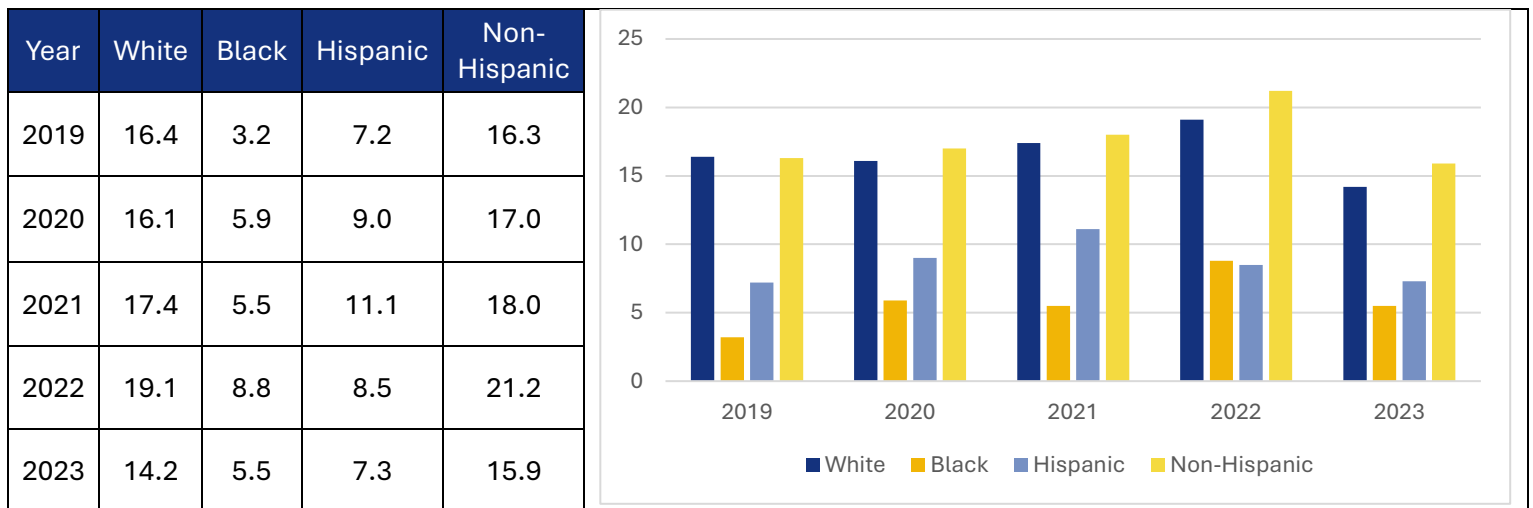
Exhibit HC40: Number of Suicide Deaths by Age, Lee County, 2019-2023



Source: Florida Department of Health, Bureau of Vital Statistics

In Lee County, the White and non-Hispanic population has a higher rate of suicide deaths than the black and Hispanic populations. The rate among all groups rose between 2019 and 2022, but then fell in 2023.

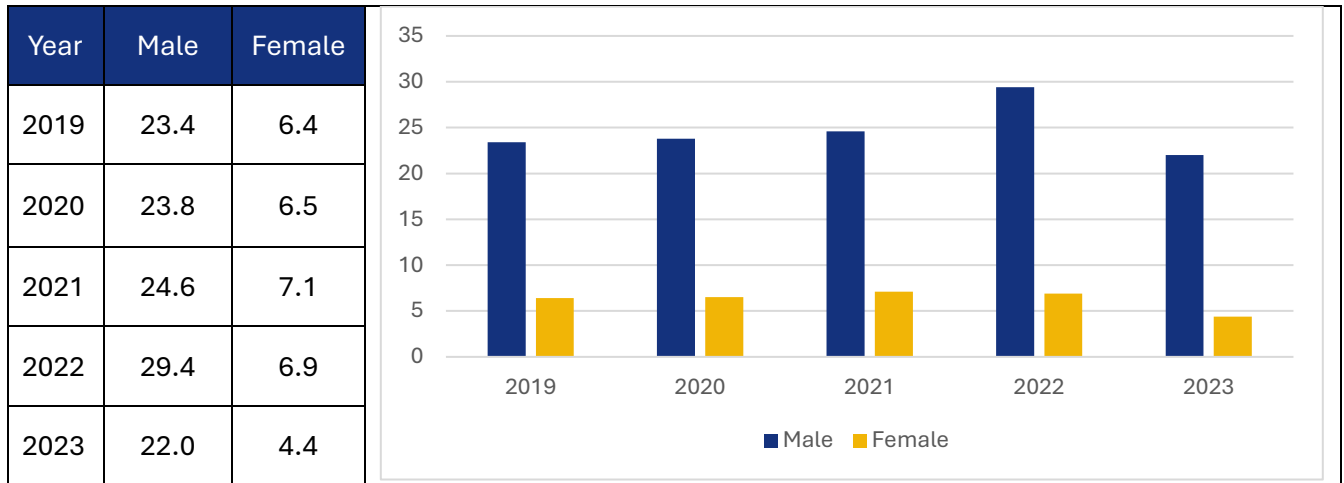
Exhibit HC41: Age-Adjusted Suicide Deaths by Race and Ethnicity, Rate per 100,000 Population, Lee County, 2019-2023



Source: Florida Department of Health, Bureau of Vital Statistics

When compared to females, males have had a significantly higher rate of suicide deaths in Lee County.

Exhibit HC42: Age-Adjusted Suicide Deaths by Sex, Rate per 100,000 Population, Lee County, 2019-2023



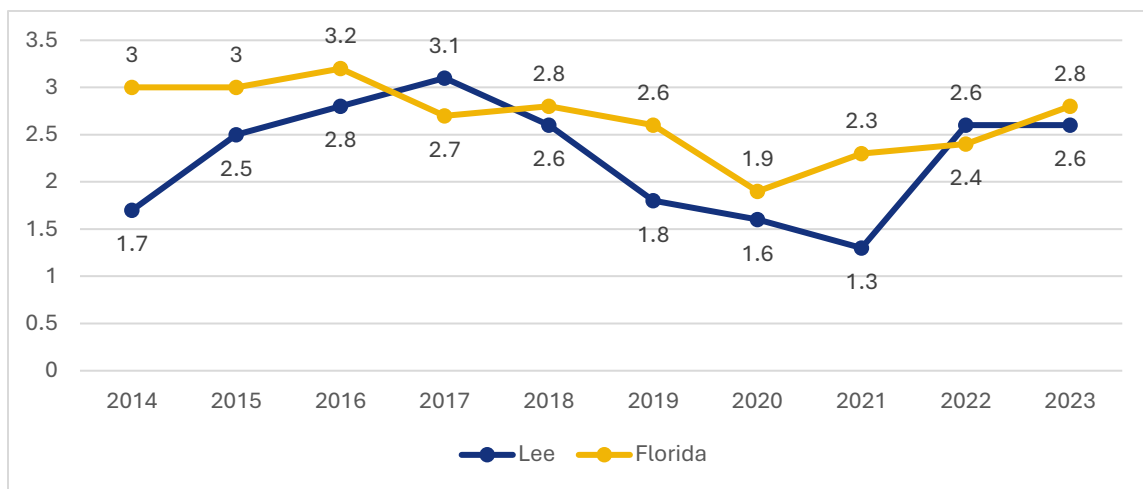
Source: Florida Department of Health, Bureau of Vital Statistics

Tuberculosis

According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, Tuberculosis (TB) is caused by a bacterium called *Mycobacterium Tuberculosis*. TB is an infectious disease that attacks the lungs, but it can attack any part of the body. TB is an airborne infectious disease, which means the disease spreads in the air when a person infected with TB coughs, speaks, or sings.

In the past 10 years, 2017 had the highest rate of Tuberculosis cases in Lee County. When compared to the state of Florida, Lee County typically has a lower rate of TB cases (Lee 2.6, Florida, 2.8, 2023).

Exhibit HC43: Tuberculosis (TB), Rate per 100,000 Population, Lee County and Florida, 201-2023



Source: Florida Department of Health, Bureau of Epidemiology

Sexually Transmitted Diseases (STDs)

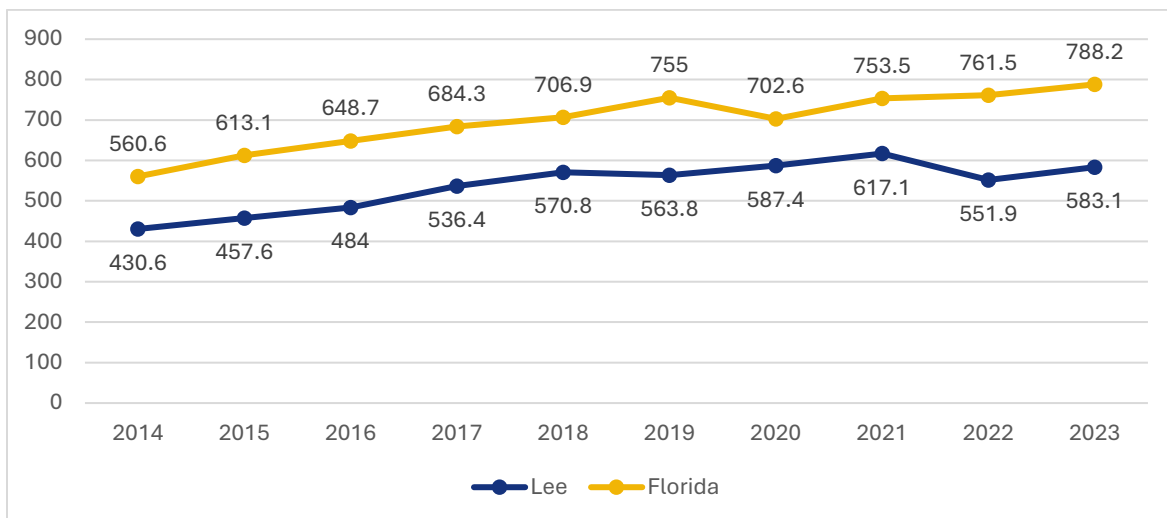
Chlamydia infections in women are usually asymptomatic and can result in pelvic inflammatory disease (PID), which is a major cause of infertility, ectopic pregnancy, and chronic pelvic pain. As is the case with other inflammatory STIs, chlamydia infections can facilitate the transmission of human immunodeficiency virus (HIV). Pregnant women infected with chlamydia can also pass the infection to their infants during delivery, potentially resulting in neonatal ophthalmia and pneumonia. Due to the burden of disease and the risks associated with infections, the CDC recommends that all sexually active women younger than 25 years of age receive an annual chlamydia screening.

Gonorrhea is caused by *Neisseria gonorrhea*, a bacterium that can grow and multiply easily in warm, moist areas of the reproductive tract, including the cervix, uterus, and fallopian tubes in women, and in the urethra in women and men. Gonorrhea can also grow in the mouth, throat, eyes, and anus.

Syphilis is a genital ulcerative disease that causes significant complications if left untreated and facilitates the transmission of HIV infection. Syphilis is divided into four stages: primary, secondary, latent, and tertiary. Each stage has its own signs and symptoms. Untreated early syphilis in pregnant women results in perinatal mortality in as much as 40 percent of cases, and pregnancy may lead to infection of the fetus in 80 percent of cases. Syphilis is passed from person to person through direct contact with a syphilis sore. Sores occur on the external genitalia, vagina, and anus or in the rectum. These sores can also occur on the lips and in the mouth. Even after completing syphilis treatment, reinfection is possible.

Bacterial sexually transmitted diseases (STDs) are comprised of three reportable sexually transmitted infections (STIs): chlamydia, gonorrhea, and syphilis. Bacterial STDs in both Lee County and Florida increased between 2014 and 2023. The rate of bacterial STDs for Lee County is lower than the state average (583.1 Lee, 788.2 Florida, 2023).

Exhibit HC44: Bacterial Sexually Transmitted Diseases (STDs), Rate per 100,000 Population, Lee County and Florida, 2014-2023

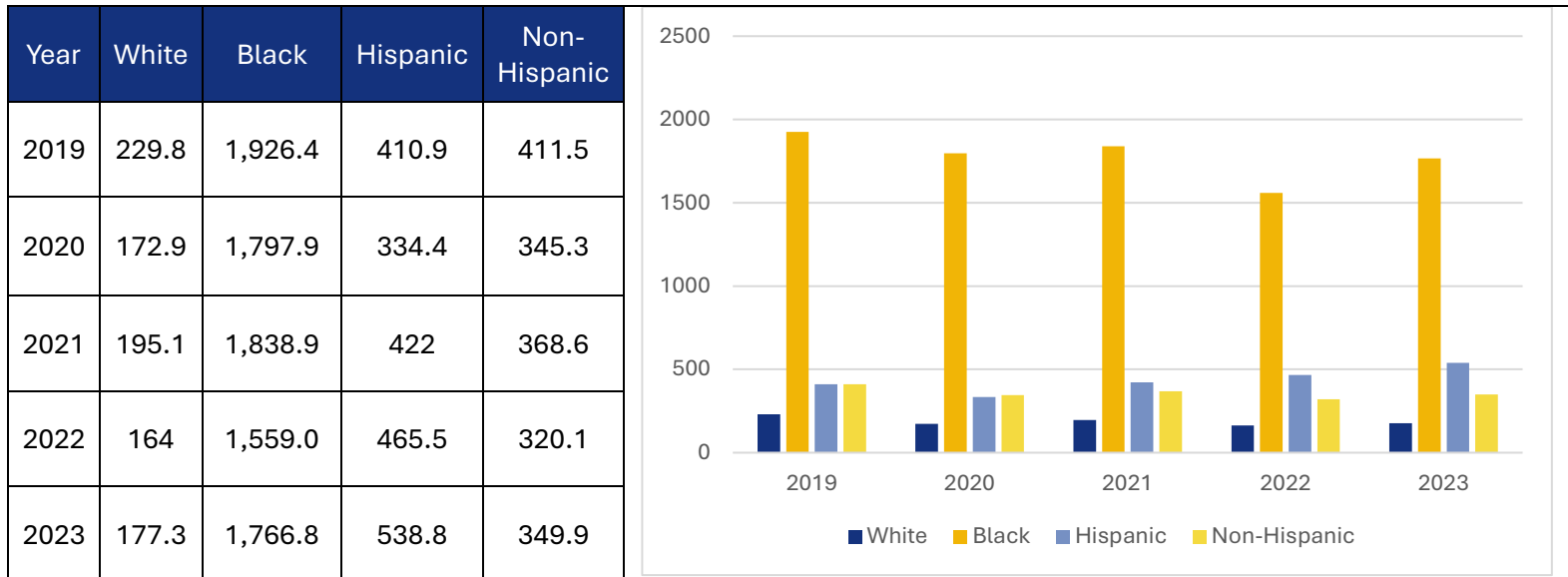


Source: Florida Department of Health, Bureau of Communicable Diseases

2025 Lee County Community Health Assessment: Health Conditions

In Lee County, bacterial STDs are most prevalent in the Black population.

Exhibit HC45: Bacterial STDs by Race and Ethnicity, Rate per 100,000 Population, Lee County, 2019-2023



Source: Florida Department of Health, Bureau of Communicable Diseases

Chlamydia is the most common sexually transmitted infection (STI) in Lee County. When compared to the Florida average, Lee County's STI rates are lower for chlamydia, gonorrhea, and syphilis.

Exhibit HC46: Sexually Transmitted Infections (STI), 3-year rolling rate, Lee County and Florida, 2021-2023

	# cases annual average	Lee 3-Year Rate per 100,000	Florida 3-Year Rate per 100,000
Chlamydia	3,214	401.9	484.3
Gonorrhea	1,081.3	135.2	202.9
Syphilis, all stages	371.0	46.4	80.7

Source: Florida Department of Health, Bureau of Communicable Diseases

Chlamydia is seen at higher rates among those who are under 25 years of age. All the STIs are seen more in people under 35 than in other age groups. However, the age range for syphilis tends to be older than that of the other STIs.

Exhibit HC47: STI Cases by Age and Sex, 3-Year Rolling, Lee County, 2021-2023

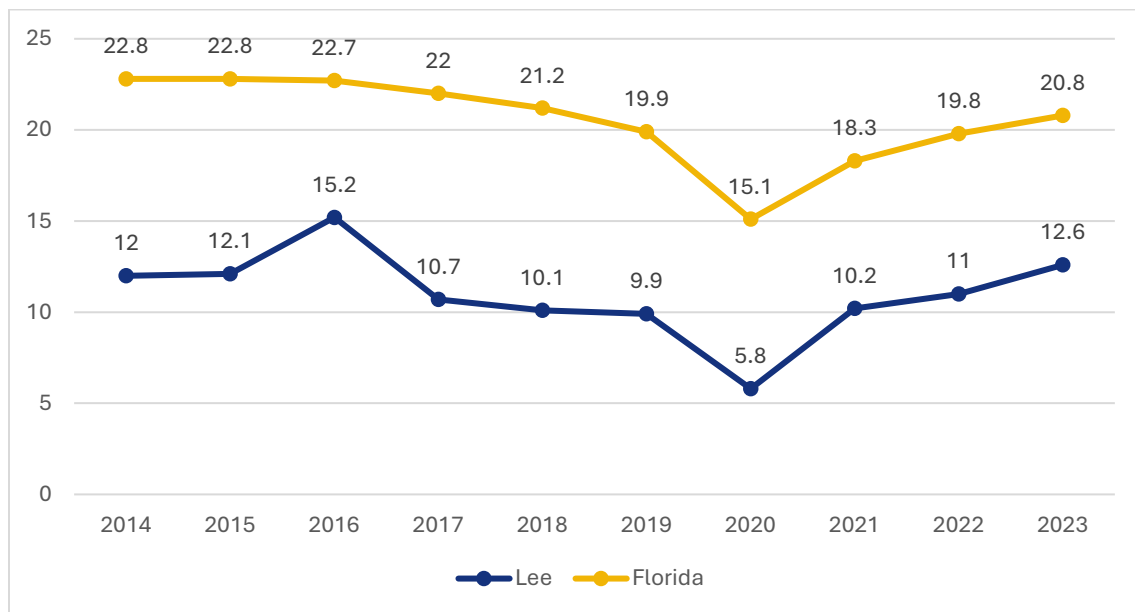
Age Group	Chlamydia			Gonorrhea			Syphilis		
	Total	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female
15-19	24.8%	17.3%	28.6%	17.5%	12.5%	24.5%	3.3%	3.7%	1.7%
20-24	37.7%	34.9%	39.1%	30.4%	27.5%	34.4%	12.8%	11.2%	18.8%
25-29	17.6%	19.1%	16.8%	19.0%	18.8%	19.4%	16.7%	15.8%	20.1%
30-34	9.3%	11.7%	8.0%	12.9%	15.6%	9.1%	17.3%	16.5%	20.1%
35-39	4.7%	6.5%	3.8%	6.8%	7.8%	5.3%	11.7%	11.3%	13.1%
40-44	2.5%	3.7%	1.8%	4.6%	5.5%	3.3%	9.1%	9.7%	7.0%
45-54	2.1%	3.8%	1.3%	5.7%	7.9%	2.7%	14.5%	15.4%	11.4%
55-64	1.0%	2.0%	0.5%	2.2%	3.0%	1.0%	11.3%	12.9%	5.2%
65+	0.4%	1.1%	0.1%	1.0%	1.5%	0.4%	3.2%	3.4%	2.6%
Total	9,581	3,219	6,353	3,236	1,882	1,353	1,094	865	229

Source: Florida Department of Health, Bureau of Communicable Diseases

HIV Infection

Lee County consistently has lower rates of HIV than the state average (12.6 Lee, 20.8 Florida, 2023). The drop in cases in 2020 was likely caused by a decrease in testing.

Exhibit HC48: Human Immunodeficiency Virus (HIV) Diagnoses, Rate per 100,000 Population, Lee County and Florida, 2014-2023



Source: Florida Department of Health, Bureau of Communicable Diseases

Male-to-male sexual contact was the mode of exposure with the highest number of reported cases of HIV in Lee County, with 52.5 percent. Heterosexual contact was the second most common mode of exposure, with 32.2 percent. Male-to-male sexual contact/injection drug use had the lowest number of reported HIV cases.

Exhibit HC49: Modes of Exposure for HIV Diagnoses, Lee County, 2021-2023

Mode of Exposure	Number	Percent of Total
Male-to-Male Sexual Contact (MMSC)	165	52.5%
Heterosexual Contact	85	32.2%
Injection Drug Use (IDU)	9	3.4%
MMSC/IDU	5	1.9%

Source: Florida Department of Health, Bureau of Communicable Diseases

In Lee County the 30–39 age-group had the highest number of reported HIV cases, accounting for almost 30 percent of the total reported cases, when compared to the other age-groups. There were only no reported cases of HIV for children under the age of 12 in Lee County for 2021-23.

Exhibit HC50: HIV Diagnoses by Age, 3-Year Rolling, Lee County, 2021-2023

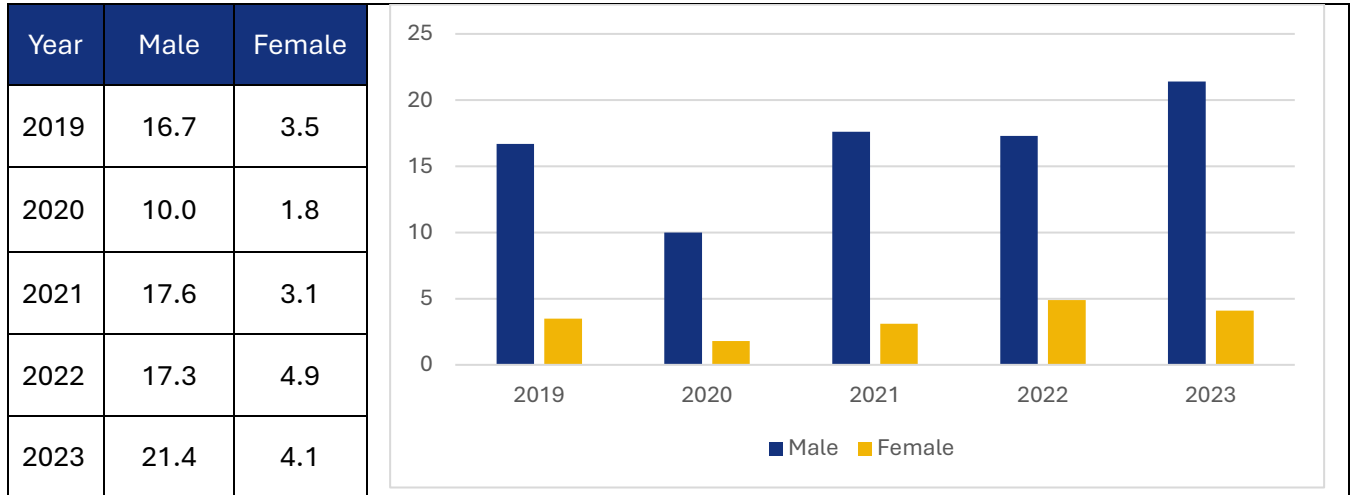
Age (in years) at Initial Florida Report	Number of Reported Cases	Percent of Total
0-12		
13-19	8	3.0%
20-24	29	10.7%
25-29	53	19.6%
30-39	81	29.9%
40-49	47	17.3%
50-59	28	10.3%
60+	25	9.2%

Source: Florida Department of Health, Bureau of Communicable Diseases

2025 Lee County Community Health Assessment: Health Conditions

In Lee County and across the state, males are far more likely to be diagnosed with HIV than females.

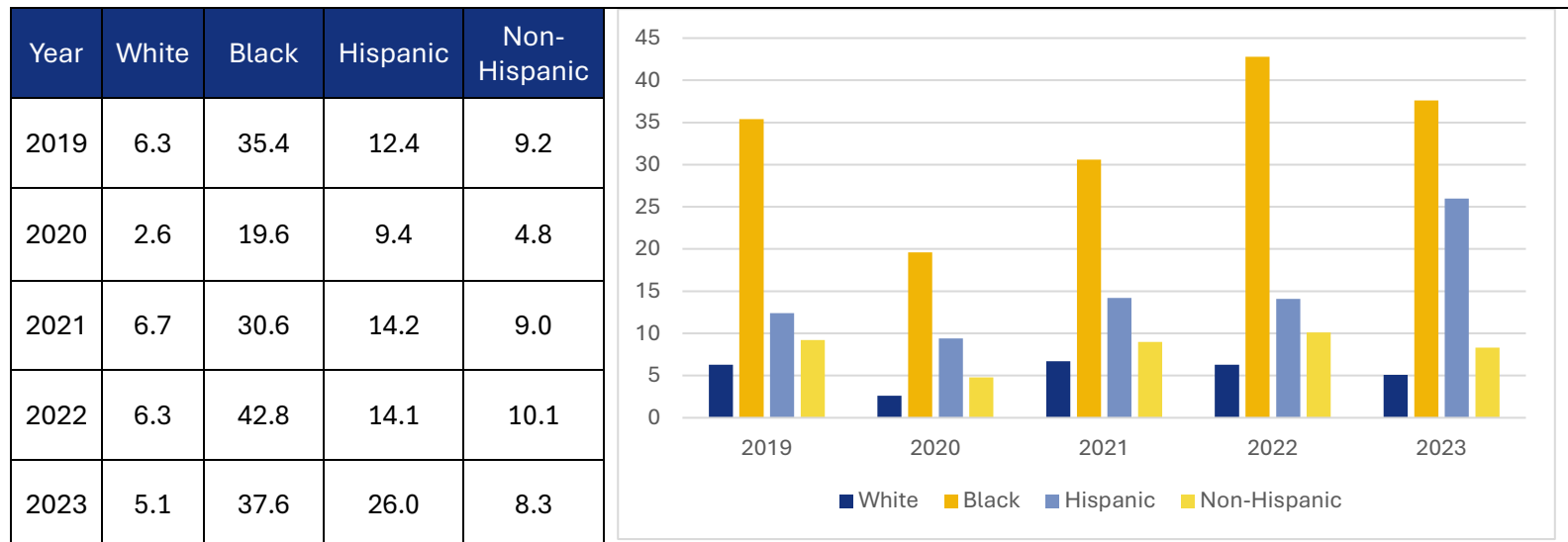
Exhibit HC51: HIV Diagnoses by Sex, 3-Year Rolling Rate per 100,000 Population, Lee County, 2019-2023



Source: Florida Department of Health, Bureau of Communicable Diseases

In Lee County, the Black population has the highest rate of HIV diagnoses, followed by the Hispanic population. The Hispanic population had a significantly higher rate of diagnoses for 2023 than any of the previous four years (26.0 2023, 14.1 2022).

Exhibit HC52: HIV Diagnoses by Race and Ethnicity, 3-Year Rolling Rate per 100,000 Population, Lee County, 2021-2023



Source: Florida Department of Health, Bureau of Communicable Diseases



2025 Lee County Health Needs Assessment

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