

Collier County Community Health Assessment, Executive Summary 2025



Prepared by



In Partnership With



Introduction

In efforts to improve the health of the residents of Collier County, a collaborative partnership was formed between NCH, the Florida Department of Health in Collier County (DOH-Collier), the Healthcare Network (HN), and the Health Planning Council of Southwest Florida, Inc. (HPC), also known as the CHA Steering Committee, for the purpose of conducting a needs assessment for use of the mentioned partners and other community partners in Collier County. The Steering Committee held monthly meetings for the duration of the project to aid in the planning, creation, and implementation of this health needs assessment.

HPC reviewed numerous data sources and received feedback from the Steering Committee, as well as from members of the community through surveys, questionnaires, interviews with community leaders, and a focus group. This needs assessment consists of demographic, socioeconomic, and health status information that will be used to identify areas where targeted interventions and policy changes may have the most significant impact. Once community needs are identified through quantitative data analysis of demographic, socioeconomic, and health status information, community survey, focus groups, and interviews, the strategic process and community health improvement planning can begin.



Source: Health Planning Council of Southwest Florida

Community Survey 441 Residents Completed

Ranking of Priorities

1. Access to care
2. Chronic disease
3. Alcohol & drug use
4. Health of older adults
5. Dental health
6. Mental health
7. Communicable diseases
8. Disabilities
9. Obesity
10. Unintentional Injury

Top Health Concerns

1. Access to specialty care
2. Access to primary care
3. Aging problems
4. Not enough doctors
5. Mental health conditions
6. Dental problems
7. Women's health issues
8. Senior care

Top Health Needs

1. Affordable housing
2. More doctors
3. Financial assistance for healthcare
4. Additional health services
5. Mental/behavioral health services
6. Wellness programs
7. Job opportunities
8. Health education

Community Outreach Questionnaire

Need

1. Access to healthcare
2. Dental care
3. Transportation

Barriers

1. Scheduling and availability
2. Financial constraints
3. Transportation problems

Focus Group

Improvements needed

1. EMR record coordination
2. Mental health services
3. Lack of affordable dental services
4. Lack of affordable vision services

Community Leader Interviews

Critical challenges

1. Access to affordable care
2. Behavioral health services
3. Access to transportation
4. Affordability of living
5. Lack of primary care

Population

- Collier County has a population of over 390,944 (2023) and is located in southwest Florida. It is the second-largest county in Florida after Palm Beach County.
- Between 2014 and 2023, the resident population of Collier County grew significantly, increasing by over 18%.
- Collier County's population is projected to increase by another 99,417 by 2050.
- In 2020, the three communities with the highest population were North Naples, Urban Estates, and Rural Estates.
- Collier County draws a relatively large number of seasonal residents, with the peak season population increasing by an estimated 20% over the permanent population.
- The median age in Collier County increased by 5.5 years between 2013 and 2023, reaching 53.1 in 2023.
- Collier County is becoming more diverse. Between 2003 and 2023, the black and other populations grew more quickly than the white population in Collier County.
- The Hispanic population in Collier County grew from 25.5% in 2009 to 29% in 2023.
- In 2023, over 26% of the total Collier County population was foreign-born.
- Collier County has a higher percentage of the population that speaks English less than very well compared to Florida.
- In 2023, of households that spoke languages other than English, 71% spoke Spanish.

Additional details and data sources can be found in the Collier County Health Needs Assessment

Drivers of Health

- In 2023, 44% of Collier County students were deemed ready when they entered kindergarten, which is lower than the state of Florida (51%).
- Collier County students passed the Florida Standards English Language Arts Assessment (FSA) at higher rates than the state average (60% Collier, 55% Florida) in 2024.
- Between 2013 and 2023, Collier County consistently had a higher high school graduation rate than the state average (91.5% Collier, 88.0% Florida).
- The median household income in Collier County for 2023 is significantly higher when compared to the Florida average (\$86,173 Collier, \$71,711 Florida).
- When compared to Florida and the United States, Collier County has consistently had a lower percentage of people living in poverty.
- In 2023, 10% of Collier County households were considered in poverty, and an additional 33% were considered below the ALICE threshold from the United Way indicating that they were financially burdened.
- In Immokalee, 74% of households were below the ALICE threshold in 2023.
- The median value of housing is significantly higher in Collier County than the state average (\$486,800 vs. \$325,000).
- Collier County has a higher median gross rent when compared to Florida and the United States in 2023.
- In 2023, 28.1% of owner-occupied households in Collier County were housing cost burdened, paying more than 30% of their income for housing.
- Since 2020, the percentage of renter households paying more than 30% of their income in rent in Collier County has been higher than the state average (61.8% Collier vs. 58.7% Florida, 2023).

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Settings and Systems

- Collier County has more licensed providers than the state average in every category except for licensed pediatricians and licensed behavioral/mental health professionals.
- The county has significantly fewer nursing home beds per 100,000 residents when compared to the state of Florida (206 vs. 366.3).
- Medicaid enrollment rates in Collier County are lower than the state rates.
- Collier County consistently has a higher percentage of people under the age of 65 who are uninsured.
- In 2023, 22.9% of the core working population aged 19-64 in Collier County were without health insurance, compared to 15.5% in Florida.
- The Hispanic or Latino population in Collier County had the highest percentage of those who are uninsured, nearly double the state average (30.0% Collier, 15.6% Florida, 2023).
- In 2022, 44,430 people in Collier County were food insecure.
- The average meal cost in Collier County is \$4.78, which is \$0.65 higher than the Florida average.
- Collier County has a smaller percentage of the population living near a park or off-street trail system compared to the Florida average.
- Nearly 80% of Collier County's land area is in conservation.
- Collier County workers, on average, have a lower travel time to work than the Florida average.
- Collier County has a lower-than-average rate for all crimes and domestic violence when compared to the State of Florida as a whole.

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Health Behaviors

- In 2019, about 41% of adults in Collier County were considered overweight, which is higher than the Florida average (41% Collier vs. 38% Florida).
- In 2019, about 23% of adults in Collier County were considered obese, which was lower than the Florida average (23% Collier vs. 27% Florida).
- In 2019, about 12% of adults in Collier County were current smokers, lower than the Florida average (12% Collier vs. 15% Florida).
- The percentage of high school students in Collier County who reported consuming alcohol in the past 30 days has decreased significantly over the past 10 years (29.4% in 2016 to 17.5% in 2024).
- The percentage of high school students in Collier County who reported cigarette use in the past 30 days has significantly decreased in the past decade (4.8% in 2016, 1.1% in 2024).
- The percentage of middle and high school students in Collier County who reported vaping nicotine in the past 30 days decreased between 2020 and 2024 (9.7% in 2020, 6.6% in 2024).
- From 2016 to 2024, the percentage of middle and high school students in Collier County who reported using marijuana or hashish decreased significantly (9.7% in 2016, 3.9% in 2024).
- In Collier County, drug poisoning was responsible for fatal injuries at a higher age-adjusted rate than all other causes.
- There was a significant increase in the death rate from unintentional injuries in Collier County over the past 10 years (38.0 in 2014, 70.1 in 2023).
- In 2023, Collier County's unintentional injury death rate was higher than the Florida average (70.1 Collier, 63.9 Florida).

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Health Behaviors

- Deaths from unintentional falls are most common in the population aged 65 or older.
- In Collier County, the rate of death from falls for the population aged 65 or older is significantly higher than the state average (131.2 Collier, 81.9 Florida, 2023).
- The rate of motor vehicle crashes in Collier County has been increasing since a low in 2020 and is nearing the state average.
- Compared to other Florida counties for the years 2021-2023, Collier County has a higher rate for births to mothers ages 15-19 than the state average (16.9 Collier, 13.2 Florida).
- Collier County is in the worst quartile for the state for births with adequate prenatal care (Kotelchuck index [%]), with a rate of 58.1% compared to 63.3% for Florida.
- Fewer women in Collier County breastfeed compared to the state average, and that percentage has been falling (71.5% Collier, 85.8% Florida, 2021-2023).
- The maternal death rate for Collier County is significantly lower than the state rate (9.9 Collier, 24.2 Florida, 2021-2023).
- In the past decade, Collier County consistently had fewer people visit the emergency room for dental conditions than the Florida average.
- The percentage of high school students in Collier County who had not visited a dentist's office in the past 12 months increased between 2010 and 2022 (21.0% 2010, 28.6% 2022).

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Health Conditions

- Collier County consistently exceeds the Florida average for life expectancy, and in 2021-23, had the highest life expectancy out of all 67 counties in Florida.
- However, like the rest of the state, Collier County saw a decline in life expectancy beginning in 2019-21.
- Cancer and heart disease are the two most common causes of death in Collier County.
- Unintentional injury and cancer had the highest years of potential life lost in Collier County, indicating these causes disproportionately affect younger people.
- While Collier County has experienced an increase in new cases of cancer, its cancer death rate is significantly lower than the Florida average.
- Breast cancer incidence has increased significantly, and the rate for Collier County is now higher than the state average.
- The death rate from heart disease in Collier County was the lowest in 2023 in the past ten years and is significantly lower than the Florida average.
- There has been a significant increase in stroke deaths in the county since 2014, although the rate began to fall after 2020.
- Alzheimer's disease was the sixth leading cause of death in the population 65 years and older in Collier County in 2023.
- The percentage of the population over 65 with Alzheimer's Disease is higher in Collier County than the state average, but the death rate is lower.
- Chlamydia is the most common sexually transmitted infection (STI) in Collier County, but overall, Collier County has had a consistently lower rate of bacterial STDs compared to the state.
- The rates of HIV diagnoses in Collier County have increased from 2014 through 2023, with heterosexual contact now the most common mode of exposure.

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FQHC Data

- Healthcare Network (HN) is the Federally Qualified Health Center (FQHC) in Collier County.
- HN has 12 locations within Collier County: three in Immokalee and nine in the Naples area.
- HN serves an estimated total of 50,278 people in Collier County.
- About 61% of patients served by HN are children under 18 years of age, which is significantly higher than regional benchmarks and the state average.
- Approximately 85% of patients served by HN identify as members of racial and/or ethnic minority groups, higher than all regional benchmarks and Florida.
- Over half (53.7%) of HN's patients are best served in a language other than English, which is significantly higher than regional benchmarks and the state.
- Nearly 90% of HN's patients are at or below 200% of the federal poverty guideline.
- About 15% of the patients served by HN are uninsured, which is significantly lower than the state's average.
- About 24% of HN patients were identified as having hypertension, slightly less than the Florida average.
- Approximately 44% of women accessing prenatal care from HN did so within the first trimester, lower than the state average.
- HN performs better than the state average in screening for cervical cancer, breast cancer, body mass index, colorectal cancer, and HIV.
- 14% of HN patients receive mental health services, significantly higher than the state average and regional benchmarks.

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