

Community Health and Needs Assessment Executive Summary









THANK YOU TO OUR STEERING COMMITTEE:













































ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The work required to produce this report could have only been accomplished with the help of community partners and a dedicated group of the following key leaders and supporters:

Core Group:

Joseph D. Pepe, Ed. D., MSA, Health Officer, Florida Department of Health in Charlotte County

Meranda Pitt, Director of Community Health Planning, Promotion, and Communication Florida Department of Health in Charlotte County

Gabriel Fuster, Community Planner, Florida Department of Health in Charlotte County

Mjay Saunders, Community Planner, Florida Department of Health in Charlotte County

Carrie Walsh, Director, Charlotte County Human Services Department

Colleen Turner, Senior Manager, Charlotte County Human Services Department

Sarah Gualco, Director of Programs and Planning, Area Agency for Aging of Southwest Florida

Stephanie Kerns, Charlotte Behavioral Health Care

Mike Norton, Charlotte County Community Services

Laurie Kimball, Grants Analyst, Charlotte County Human Services Department

William Thompson, Aging and Adult Services Manager, Charlotte County Human Services Department

Tara Blackson, Family Stability Supervisor, Charlotte County Human Services Department

Diane Ramseyer, Executive Director, Drug Free Charlotte County

Kay Tvaroch, Executive Director, Englewood Community Coalition

Elena Tomlins, Community Health Nursing Director, Florida Department of Health in Charlotte County

Angela Hogan, CEO, Gulf Coast Partnership

Brian Hemmert, CEO, Health Planning Council of Southwest Florida

Molly Toure, Executive Director, Healthy Start Coalition

Angie Matthiessen, CEO, United Way of Charlotte County

Suzanne Roberts, CEO, Virginia B. Andes

To meet Public Health Accreditation Board (PHAB) Domain 1, Standard 1.1, the Health Department must provide documentation of the collaborative process to identify and collect data and information, identify health issues, and identify existing assets and resources to address health issues. The model utilized for this assessment is the Mobilizing for Action through Planning and Partnerships (MAPP) 2.0, NACCHO's framework for community health improvement.

To comply with the federal Community Service Block Grant (CSBG) Act, Public Law 105-285, 42 U.S.C. 9908 (a) (11), Charlotte County Human Services (a CSBG eligible entity) is required to complete a Community Needs Assessment every 3 years as a condition of funding. This Community Health and Needs Assessment meets that requirement and will inform the work of the Human Services Department and its Community Action Agency Advisory Board (CAAAB) to ensure the most effective alignment of the CSBG and other local, state, and federal resources.

LETTER TO THE COMMUNITY

Dear Community Members,

We are proud to present the Charlotte County 2025 Community Health and Needs Assessment (CHNA). This analysis covers the communities of Punta Gorda, Port Charlotte, and Englewood, Florida, and is the result of a multi-agency collaboration dedicated to improving the health and well-being of our community, known as Healthy Charlotte.

Every five years we conduct a CHNA, which serves as the foundation for developing a 3-5-year Community Health Improvement Plan (CHIP). The purpose of this assessment is to provide a thorough analysis of data related to the health, economic, social, environmental, behavioral, and educational factors that impact the well-being of our community. For the 2025 CHNA, Healthy Charlotte partners have worked together to create a more robust and comprehensive report that better reflects the diverse needs and challenges facing our community today.

Since the 2020 CHNA, Charlotte County has faced significant hardships, but these events have shown the resilience of our community. Together, we have supported one another, rebuilt homes, restored businesses, and found strength in the face of adversity. This spirit of unity and determination has been essential in overcoming these challenges, and it continues to guide our efforts as we move forward.

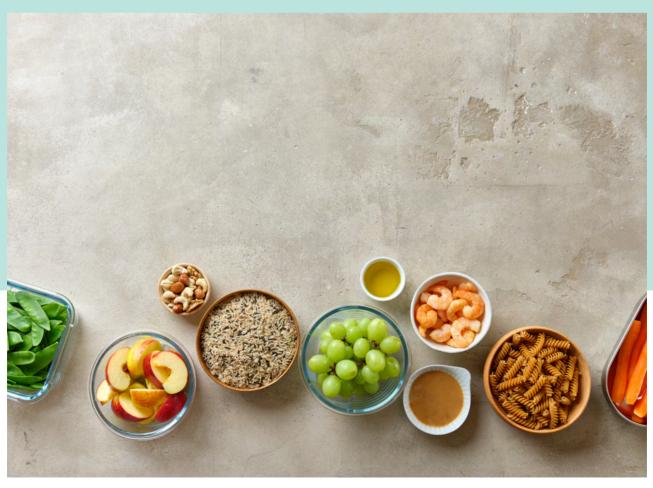
The resources available to a community should be regularly evaluated to ensure that they are meeting the changing needs of its members. This report provides a detailed assessment of the health, needs, and well-being of Charlotte County, including community assets and feedback from residents on quality of life. The process was a community-wide effort, involving input from government agencies, community organizations, businesses, and residents. We are grateful for all who played a part to provide data, participate in focus groups and surveys, attend meetings, and review the final product.

The information within this report is designed to serve as a valuable resource for local policymakers, public health leaders, and organizations serving Charlotte County. It will help guide decision-making, shape targeted interventions, and ensure the proper distribution of community resources.

In Public Service, Healthy Charlotte



THROUGH COLLABORATION AND INTEGRATED SERVICES, CHARLOTTE COUNTY WILL BE AN ACTIVE AND THRIVING COMMUNITY PRIORITIZING COMPASSION AND RESILIENCE.



Executive Summary

The 2025 Community Health and Needs Assessment (CHNA) was conducted as part of Healthy Charlotte, a multi-agency collaboration dedicated to improving the health and well-being of our community. For this assessment, we adopted the MAPP 2.0 (Mobilizing for Action through Planning and Partnerships) framework, a community-driven strategic planning process that helps communities assess public health needs, prioritize health issues, and develop strategies to improve health outcomes.

MAPP 2.0, updated by the National Association of County and City Health Officials (NACCHO), streamlines the original MAPP framework into three distinct phases. This updated model places a greater emphasis on community engagement, data-driven assessments, and addressing broader social factors that influence health, ensuring that improvement efforts are effective and sustainable.

For the 2025 CHNA, we followed the three phases of MAPP 2.0:

Phase 1: Build the Community Health Improvement (CHI) Foundation

This phase focused on laying the groundwork for the community health improvement process. We began by leveraging the existing partnerships from the 2020 CHNA and gradually expanded our network as we shared the vision for the assessment. As more community leaders and organizations saw the potential impact of our work, they chose to join the initiative, contributing their expertise and resources to help shape the vision for a healthier Charlotte County.

Phase 2: Tell the Community Story

In this phase, we conducted a comprehensive community assessment using three key tools:

Community Partners Assessment (CPA):

This assessment allowed us to evaluate both the individual capacities of community systems and the collective strength of our partnership to address the health needs of the population.

Community Status Assessment (CSA):

A quantitative analysis that assessed the current state of community health, this tool helped us understand not only health behaviors and outcomes but also the social factors that impact these outcomes.

Community Context Assessment (CCA):

A qualitative tool that gathered insights from individuals and communities most impacted by social systems, this assessment highlighted the challenges within those systems and identified opportunities for improvement.





Phase 3: Continuously Improve the Community

We have not yet entered Phase 3, but we will begin this phase with the development of the 2025 Charlotte County Community Health Improvement Plan (CHIP). In Phase 3, we will focus on implementing strategies that address the broader social factors affecting health and improve outcomes for residents. Through strategic partnerships and continuous quality improvement, we will refine our efforts to ensure long-term, meaningful progress in addressing the community's health needs.

Through the MAPP 2.0 process, we have gained a deeper understanding of the health needs and challenges in Charlotte County. As we move forward into Phase 3 with our CHIP, we are committed to working with our community partners to make meaningful changes that will enhance the well-being of all residents.



The Three Assessments

As part of Phase 2 of the MAPP 2.0 process, we conducted three key assessments to help us gather comprehensive, community-driven data: the Community Status Assessment (CSA), the Community Partners Assessment (CPA), and the Community Context Assessment (CCA). These assessments provided us with both quantitative and qualitative insights, allowing us to develop a clear picture of the current health and well-being of Charlotte County and the factors that influence it.



Community Partners Assessment (CPA)

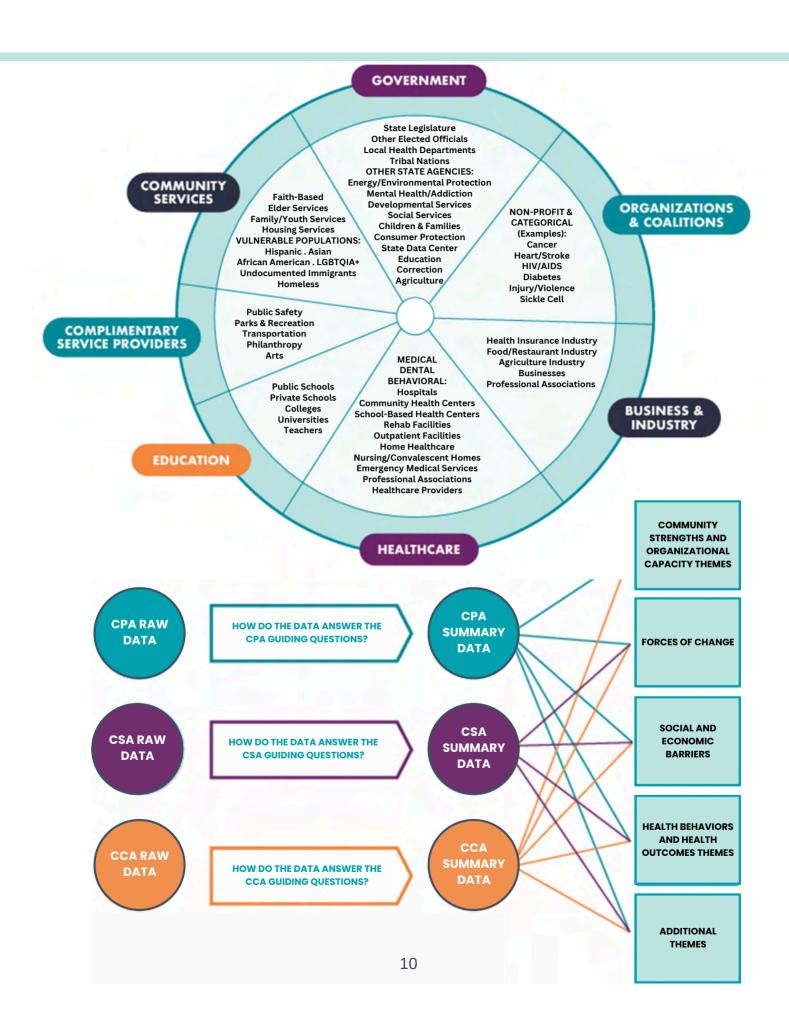
The Community Partners Assessment (CPA) involved evaluating the strengths and capacities of local organizations and community partners that play a role in addressing public health needs. Through this assessment, we gained valuable insights into how well the various community systems and organizations are working together to improve health outcomes and what additional resources or collaborations may be needed.

In the CPA, we evaluated the capacity of both individual systems and the collective capacity of the partnerships formed through Healthy Charlotte to meet the health needs identified by the CSA and CCA. This assessment provided us with a clearer picture of the resources available within the community, including local health providers, social services, and support organizations.

The CPA also gave us insight into the strengths and challenges of our partnerships, helping us understand where collaboration could be enhanced and where gaps in services might exist. The information gathered from this assessment will help guide our efforts in Phase 3, where we will continue to build on these partnerships to improve the health and well-being of Charlotte County.

Community Status Assessment (CSA)

The Community Status Assessment (CSA) is a quantitative assessment designed to evaluate the overall health status of the community, including health behaviors, outcomes, and social/economic barriers. For this assessment, we gathered data from 1,248 respondents, representing a wide range of demographics and backgrounds within Charlotte County.



To ensure broad participation and diverse perspectives, the CSA survey was translated into multiple languages and distributed using an online format via SurveyMonkey. In addition, we provided paper copies of the survey, which were distributed throughout the community and collected back from participants in various locations. This hybrid approach allowed us to capture insights from online survey takers and those who prefer more traditional forms of communication.

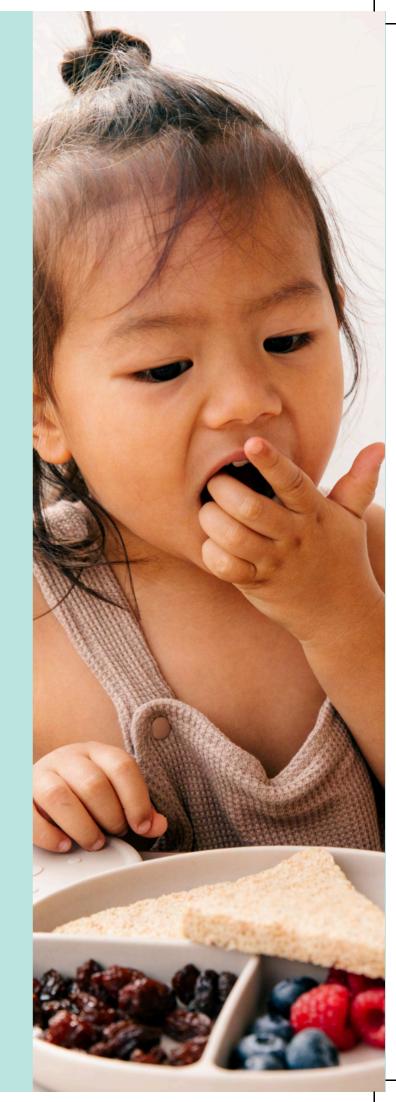
The 1,248 responses we received provided insight into the health concerns and priorities of Charlotte County residents. The survey gathered data on a wide array of topics, including access to healthcare, health behaviors, chronic conditions, and other factors that impact health outcomes. The responses gave us a clear understanding of community needs, challenges, and strengths, providing us with the necessary information to inform the development of strategies for the upcoming Community Health Improvement Plan (CHIP).

Community Context Assessment (CCA)

The Community Context Assessment (CCA) is a qualitative assessment that gathers in-depth, personal insights from community members directly. This tool focuses on understanding the unique experiences and perspectives of individuals and groups within the community, particularly those impacted by social systems.

For the 2025 CHNA, we conducted 10 focus groups across the county, engaging a wide range of participants to ensure diverse perspectives. We held 2 focus groups in Punta Gorda, 2 in Englewood, and the remaining focus groups in Port Charlotte.

These sessions were carefully structured to include participants from varying backgrounds and demographics, ensuring that we heard from a broad cross-section of the community. The focus groups consisted of people from different walks of life, including seniors, veterans, professionals, and church members, among others. Each group offered unique insights into the challenges they face and the resources they need to improve their health and quality of life. Participants shared their experiences related to access to healthcare, local resources, social support systems, and community programs.





The information collected during these focus groups helped us gain a deeper understanding of the social and cultural factors that influence health in Charlotte County. By listening to the voices of residents, we were able to identify key community assets, barriers to accessing care, and areas where services could be improved or expanded. These qualitative insights were crucial for shaping our overall understanding of the county's health needs and for informing the development of actionable strategies in the CHIP.



"By listening to the voices of residents, we were able to identify key community assets, barriers to accessing care, and areas where services could be improved or expanded."



Data Analysis and Prioritization



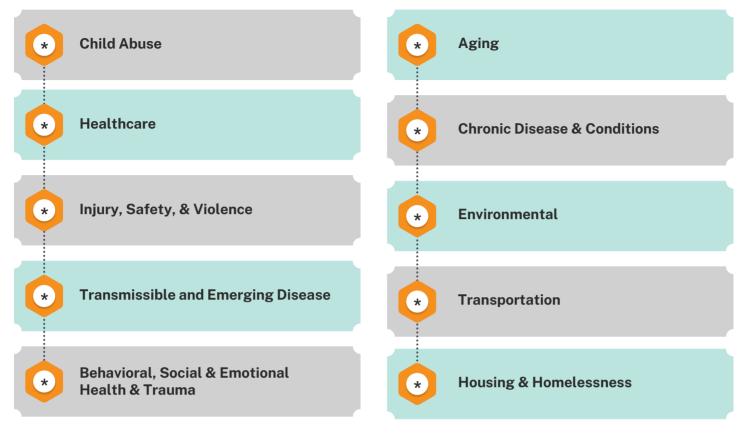
To ensure a thorough analysis of the data collected from the Community Status Assessment (CSA), Community Context Assessment (CCA), and various partner and government sources, Healthy Charlotte formed a Data Analysis Task Force. Their role was to compile, organize, and present the data in a way that would allow the Healthy Charlotte Steering Committee to properly prioritize the areas of focus.

The Data Analysis Task Force worked diligently to organize the data into comprehensive data sheets, focusing on the areas of focus that represent the main health and well-being challenges faced by the community. These topics were carefully selected based on the survey results, feedback from focus groups, and the already established 2020 CHNA and State Health Assessment (SHA).



Initial Areas of Focus

October 2024





The data task force compiled this information and ensured relevant data was captured and organized for the steering committee's review.

Once the task force had completed the data sheets, a meeting was held with the steering committee. The steering committee was responsible for the next step: the prioritization process. To facilitate this, meeting organizers conducted an activity in which they split into small groups of 3 - 4 members. Each group was assigned two or three of the areas of focus to analyze in terms of feasibility, impact, and existing community assets.

During the activity, each group evaluated their assigned focus areas by considering three factors:

Feasibility:

How realistic is it to address the issue with the resources and infrastructure currently available?

Impact:

What kind of impact could addressing this issue have on the community?

Assets:

What community resources, partnerships, or assets can be used to address the issue?

After each group completed their analysis, they presented their findings to the rest of the participants. The presentations allowed the committee to understand the strengths, challenges, and opportunities for each area of focus.

To ensure an unbiased prioritization process, the steering committee then voted anonymously. Members ranked each area of focus on a scale from 1 to 5 in each of the three categories: feasibility, impact, and assets. The results of these votes were then compiled, and the areas of focus were ranked based on how they performed across all three criteria using their score averages.

This process allowed the steering committee to prioritize the most pressing health issues in Charlotte County and focus efforts on the areas with the highest potential for impact. The rankings from this process will guide the development of the Community Health Improvement Plan (CHIP), ensuring that the county's efforts address the most critical needs in the most effective way possible.





Community Profile

Charlotte County, Florida, has a diverse population with an estimated population of around 200,000 residents. The county has a significant proportion of retirees, which is reflected in its median age of about 60 years, well above the state and national averages.

The racial composition is predominantly White (around 86%), with Hispanic or Latino residents making up approximately 10%, 5% Black or African American, and smaller percentages of Asian, and other racial groups. The county has experienced steady population growth in recent years, driven largely by migration from other states, particularly from the Northeast and Midwest, seeking a more affordable lifestyle and favorable climate.

Economic Challenges

Despite Charlotte County's relatively lower cost of living compared to the state average, economic challenges persist. The median household income in the county is \$62,164, slightly lower than the Florida median of \$67,917. High housing costs, intensified by hurricanes such as Ian in 2022 and Helene and Milton in 2024, remain a primary concern for residents. Housing affordability is particularly problematic, with 11.91% of households in the community survey spending more than 30% of their income on housing, and homelessness emerging as a critical issue. The community survey also highlighted that 26.1% of respondents viewed homelessness as a major health and wellness concern, ranking it 5th out of 32 in priorities.

Employment and Workforce

Charlotte County's workforce is primarily employed in service-related industries, including Arts, Food, and Entertainment (22%), Retail Trade (17%), and Education and Health Care (11%). The county has an unemployment rate of 4.2%, which is close to the state average, but underemployment and the availability of low-wage jobs remain significant challenges. A majority of residents earn between \$50,000 and \$74,999 annually, but many struggle with low-wage, service-sector jobs. There is a strong need for better-paying, high-quality opportunities, with 24.1% of survey participants emphasizing the need for such jobs for a healthier lifestyle.

The aging workforce, combined with a lack of skilled labor, further complicates the employment landscape. The county's educational attainment levels reflect this, with 58% of residents having attended some college, but only 27.7% holding a bachelor's degree, compared to the rest of the state with 34.9% holding a degree. The limited availability of advanced training and higher education opportunities in the region further hinders workforce development.

Housing and Food Insecurity

Housing and food insecurity are ongoing issues in Charlotte County. Approximately 12% of residents experience food insecurity, slightly above the Florida average of 11%. The cost of housing continues to rise, putting a strain on low- and moderate-income families. Additionally, 51% of residents aged 18-64 live below the poverty level, and 28.9% of seniors aged 65 and older live in poverty, far surpassing the state average for the senior population.





Education and School System

Charlotte County has a mix of opinions regarding its educational system. While some residents praise the quality of local schools, others express concerns about the need for greater outreach to younger residents and the availability of programs that meet the needs of the community. There is a notable lack of higher education institutions within the county and focus group participants voiced the need for tech courses for seniors and more career-building programs for younger residents. Attendance issues, with significant absenteeism among public school students, remain a challenge in educational engagement.



Community Discussion

Charlotte County, Florida, is facing numerous health and social challenges as its population continues to grow, particularly among older adults. The county has become a popular retirement destination, attracting an increasing number of residents aged 65 and older. Currently, 67,685 people in the county are aged 65 or older, with the largest demographic groups being those aged 65-74 years (40,709) and 75-84 years (26,976). As this senior population continues to rise, it brings with it a host of challenges, including increased healthcare needs, social isolation, and a growing demand for services and infrastructure tailored to older adults. The aging population in Charlotte County has created a pressing need for accessible healthcare, senior activities, and support systems to enhance the quality of life for these residents.

The community survey revealed that aging is a significant concern, with nearly a quarter of respondents (23.8%) identifying aging issues as a top health concern, followed by senior care (17.3%). Focus group discussions also highlighted the emotional and social challenges faced by seniors, including a sense of marginalization and isolation. One participant shared, "Sometimes I feel like we [seniors] get treated poorly, as if we were children," which underscores the broader issues of aging and the need for a more inclusive, supportive community environment. Additionally, many seniors in Charlotte County experience difficulties with technology and access to activities that promote mental and physical wellbeing, as well as insufficient dental care options. There is also a high rate of disability among seniors in the county, with 32% reporting significant disability,

along with a high prevalence of chronic conditions such as heart disease, diabetes, and stroke. Falls are a particularly prevalent issue, as they contribute to a significant portion of emergency department visits.

The health of the broader population is similarly concerning, with chronic diseases such as heart disease, cancer, stroke, respiratory diseases, Alzheimer's, and diabetes being the leading causes of death in Charlotte County. Heart disease claims 340 lives per 100,000 residents, nearly double the state average, signaling a serious public health challenge. The county's rates of chronic conditions are intensified by lifestyle factors, including poor diet, insufficient physical activity, smoking, and high rates of alcohol use. Obesity is another pressing concern, with 33.2% of adults in the county classified as obese, and 66.4% of those over 65 either overweight or obese. These factors contribute significantly to the overall burden of disease in the county, leading to higher healthcare costs and reduced quality of life for many residents.

The impact of chronic diseases on the aging population is also an important factor to consider. A large portion of the senior population in Charlotte County lives with one or more chronic conditions, and many are unable to access the specialized care they need due to a shortage of healthcare providers. Survey participants expressed dissatisfaction with the local healthcare system, with a satisfaction rating of 3.25 out of 5, noting difficulties in accessing both primary and specialty care services. Over a third of survey respondents identified





access to primary care as a top health concern, and nearly the same percentage (31.7%) were concerned about the availability of specialty care. There is a shortage of healthcare providers, in particular specialists, which continues to hinder access to essential services. Charlotte County has far fewer physicians than the state average, with only 149.3 physicians per 100,000 residents, compared to Florida's average of 261.2. This shortage is especially pronounced in rural and underserved areas, where transportation barriers further exacerbate the issue. The aging population faces challenges accessing care, as many seniors lack reliable transportation and have difficulty scheduling rides.

The shortage of healthcare providers also impacts access to mental health services, which is a growing concern in Charlotte County. Mental health issues, including anxiety, depression, and substance abuse, were identified as a key priority in the community survey, with 30.6% of respondents ranking mental health problems as one of the most important health and wellness concerns. Focus group discussions revealed a deep need for increased mental health support services, especially for grief counseling, trauma-informed care, and support for individuals struggling with depression or anxiety. Mental health resources in the county are limited, and the county's mental health providers are significantly overburdened. Charlotte County has one mental health provider for every 837 residents, which is considerably lower than the state average of one provider for every 486 residents. There is also a shortage of mental health providers for children, with only 4.2 psychiatric providers per 100,000 children, compared to the state rate of 15.5 per 100,000. This shortage creates significant barriers to accessing mental health services, especially for vulnerable populations like children, seniors, and individuals struggling with substance use disorders. The county's

suicide rate of 22.1 per 100,000 residents is another stark reminder of the pressing need for mental health resources and intervention, particularly in high-risk groups such as veterans and young adults.

As Charlotte County grapples with these health challenges, housing and homelessness have emerged as significant issues. A large portion of the population is affected by housing insecurity, with 62.6% of survey respondents reporting that they are "housing cost burdened," meaning they spend more than 30% of their income on housing. The county also faces a shortage of affordable housing, partly caused by rising construction costs and a lack of affordable rental units. Housing insecurity is particularly concerning for low-income families and seniors, who are more likely to experience homelessness or unstable housing situations. In 2020-2021, Charlotte County reported 396 homeless, further highlighting the need for affordable housing options and support services for at-risk families. Addressing housing insecurity will require strategic investments in affordable housing and increased support for homeless populations, as well as policies that reduce the financial burden of housing costs for vulnerable residents.





EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The county's transportation infrastructure also presents a barrier to accessing healthcare and other essential services. The lack of reliable public transportation, particularly in rural areas, creates significant difficulties for residents, especially seniors, who may not have access to private vehicles.

Focus group participants voiced concerns about the difficulties in accessing healthcare, social activities, and essential services due to limited transportation options. Currently, public transit usage remains low, and the lack of sidewalks in many areas limits walkability. Additionally, long commute times and insufficient public transit options for residents in rural areas further complicate access to necessary services. Recently, Charlotte County Transit launched a new transportation app to improve future access to rides. Improving public transportation and enhancing the infrastructure to support alternative modes of transportation, such as biking and walking, is crucial to addressing challenges and reducing barriers.

Public safety is another key issue in Charlotte County, with both injury-related incidents and crime being significant concerns. In 2022, Charlotte County reported 38 motor vehicle crash fatalities, 7

pedestrian deaths, and 5 cyclist fatalities. Accidental injuries, especially falls, are a leading cause of death in the county, particularly among seniors with 18% (3972) of Emergency Department visits are due to falls.

Focus group participants also expressed concerns about rising crime rates and the need for increased law enforcement presence in the community. Although the county's violent crime rate is lower than the national average, property crimes such as larceny and burglary are on the rise. Addressing these safety concerns will require a coordinated approach involving law enforcement, public health agencies, and community organizations to reduce accidents, prevent crime, and enhance overall safety.



Hospital Stays per 100,000 Medicare Enrollees Charlotte County, FL

3,035Hospital Stays per 100,000 Medicare Enrollees
Florida

Sources: Mapping Medicare Disparities Tool 2021 via RWJF County Health Rankings & Roadmaps 2024









Environmental factors also play a significant role in the health of Charlotte County residents. The county faces challenges such as water quality issues, mold and mildew, and the aftermath of hurricanes and flooding, which can have lasting impacts on public health. Approximately 23.3% of survey respondents identified water quality as a key environmental health concern, while 16.8% cited mold and mildew. With the frequent occurrence of hurricanes, many residents express concerns about the long-term impact of storm-related debris and limited access to clean drinking water and food. Additionally, 12% of residents experience food insecurity, and many live far from healthy food sources. These environmental health concerns underline the need for improved infrastructure, preparedness, and sustainable practices to protect the health and safety of residents.

Conclusion

Overall, Charlotte County faces a range of interconnected health challenges that require immediate and ongoing attention. The growing senior population, rising rates of chronic diseases, mental health concerns, limited healthcare access, and various social and environmental issues all play a role in shaping the county's health landscape. Based on current needs and the capacity for effective action, the top five areas of focus for the county's health initiatives are: Chronic Disease & Conditions, Behavioral, Social & Emotional Health & Trauma, Aging, Healthcare Access & Provider Shortages, Injury, Safety & Violence.

These five areas have been identified as the most pressing for immediate action, not because other issues are less important, but because they represent the areas where we can make the most significant

Top 5 Health and Wellness Strategic Issues

November 2024



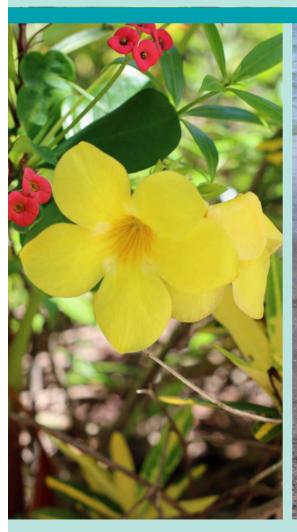
Chronic Disease & Conditions

Behavioral, Social & Emotional Health & Trauma

Aging

Healthcare Access & Provider Shortages

Injury, Safety & Violence







progress in the short term. While these priorities will guide the development of the Community Health Improvement Plan (CHIP), the remaining areas, including housing, environmental health, and transportation, remain vital to the overall health and quality of life in Charlotte County. These will be addressed as part of the broader community health strategy, ensuring that all facets of residents' health and well-being are considered.

The CHIP will focus on actionable, community-driven solutions that can make a tangible impact in the short-term, such as expanding chronic disease prevention programs, enhancing mental health services, and increasing healthcare access, community education, and social opportunities, especially for the senior population. Efforts to reduce injury and violence could be achieved through education, improved infrastructure, and safety programs.

Although we are prioritizing these areas for immediate focus, addressing the other five areas will continue to be essential. Each issue, from housing to environmental health, plays an integral role in creating a healthier and more resilient Charlotte County. By addressing these challenges collaboratively, we can make meaningful strides toward a healthier and safer future for all residents of Charlotte County.

The final Community Health and Needs Assessment will be available for distribution Summer 2025. If you are an agency serving Charlotte County, we hope this report helps guide you in better serving our residents by understanding their needs and aligning your efforts to an initiative your agency can support. As a community member, we hope that this report helps you understand the needs of our county and that it inspires you to participate and contribute to the improvement of the health and well-being of your fellow residents.





FORGET THAT

Your Voice Matters.

Don't be afraid to make it heard.

#CHARLOTTECOUNTY

#2025CHNA



What unmet needs or challenges exist in Charlotte County that could be improved?

"Skills to navigate in the digital world."

"Broader access to public transportation. Programs to combat social isolation."

"Environmental awareness. How to prepare, maintain and recover."

"Crisis intervention for individuals with autism."

"Collaboration within the system of care for early learning, infant/early childhood mental health, and developmental therapy services to ensure children reach Kindergarten with a strong foundation."

"Transportation and increased access to physical/mental activity opportunities."

"Senior services capacity growth, affordable housing, financial stability."

-Partner Survey Responses





What unmet needs or challenges exist in Charlotte County that could be improved?

"Increasing property taxes and ridiculous county fees"

"Really poor medical and mental health care; dangerous at times."

"Lack resources activities for healthy, active, kids & teens."

"More services for those who fall between the cracks, as in not qualifying for health care, or food stamps."

"Access to and cost of childcare services"

"Drug & alcohol treatment options."

"A senior center for "free" or \$1 fee exercise programs & free lunch to promote healthy social interaction."

-Community Survey Responses * * * * *





What unmet needs or challenges exist in Charlotte County that could be improved?

"Sometimes I feel like we [seniors] get treated poorly, as if we were children."

"The cost of housing has increased while housing availability has decreased."

"Younger people are not prioritized in the community due to the high elderly population."

"We need tech courses for seniors."

"We only have service and factory jobs available."

"There is a lack of specialty care in the county."

"I have to go all the way to Sarasota to see a cardiologist. My doctor told me if I have an episode, I will not survive being transported."

"Criminal activity is increasing, and we need more police presence to feel safe."

-Focus Group Responses



2024-2025 TIMELINE

2024



2/22/2024 Healthy Charlotte Core Group Planning Meeting

The first Core Group meeting at the Family Services Center in Charlotte County. Topics included a redefined vision and the creation of subcommittees such as the data taskforce. Distributed the Community Partners Assessment.



Stakeholder Engagement

Engage Healthy Charlotte Stakeholders for subcommittee group participation (i.e. Faith Leaders).



Core Group Planning and Preparation

Gather steering committee data for review. Discuss upcoming community survey questions. Conducted Mentimeter Word Clouds for redefined vision statement.



5/27/2024 Healthy Charlotte Chair/DOH Facilitators planning meeting

Analyzed Community Partners Assessment Data. Executive decision was made to resend survey for additional responses and request for steering committee survey & vision statement input.



6/4/2024 Healthy Charlotte Core Group Ad Hoc Meeting

Review and revise the community survey question. Finalized draft vision statement.

6/27/2024 Healthy Charlotte Core Group Meeting

Reviewed vision statement, community survey questions, outside data/reports. Presented finalized Community Survey flyer and Focus Group flyer for approval.

6/27/2024 Healthy Charlotte Stakeholders Meeting

Presented final vision statement, survey questions, marketing material, and timeline for the assessment process.



7/10/2024 Launch Community Survey & Focus Group Schedule

Launched the community survey which was marketed through a variety of social media platforms, news media, and within the community at local recreational centers, laundromats, food pantries, and events. Began establishing, marketing, recruitment, and presentation of focus groups.



8/15/2025 Ad Hoc Core Group Meeting

An Ad Hoc Core Group meeting was held in person at the Family Services Center and via Teams. A decision was made to extend the Community Survey through the end of September due to low participation. Additional marketing strategies were discussed.



9/26/2024 Ad Hoc Steering Committee Meeting

An Ad Hoc Core Group meeting had been scheduled to review current status and identify top priorities. This meeting was rescheduled due to Hurricanes Helene and Milton. Due to low participation, the community survey had been extended through October 4th.



10/17/2024 Data Taskforce Meeting

Review data from the partner assessment, community survey, focus groups, and data from relevant community reports. Create data sheets for Healthy Charlotte Prioritization meeting.



11/21/2024 Healthy Charlotte Prioritization Meeting

The final community prioritization meeting was conducted. Community members and agency representatives prioritized the top 5 strategic issues.

2025



1/24/2025 Healthy Charlotte Stakeholders Meeting

Presented final Executive Summary to the Stakeholders. Discussed finalizing the assessment and reviewed the timeline for the Health Improvement Plan.



2/11/2024 Community Champions Leadership Breakfast

The Executive Summary and the most important findings of the full Community Health and Needs Assessment were unveiled to the community at the Community Champions Leadership Breakfast.

