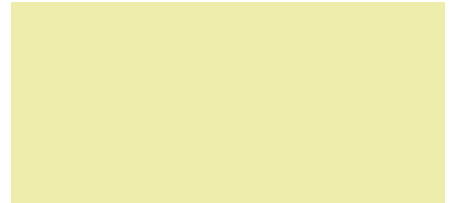
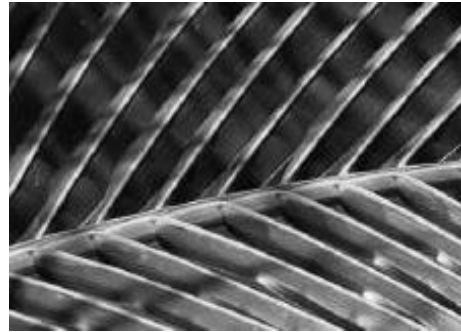


COMMUNITY VOICES: FOCUS ON SARASOTA COUNTY

RESULTS FROM THE
2006 COMMUNITY
HEALTH SURVEY



CHIP
Community Health
Improvement Partnership 

ABOUT CHIP

The **Community Health Improvement Partnership**, or CHIP, brings together a dynamic collaboration of individuals, not-for-profit organizations, hospitals, and other agencies dedicated to building better health and wellness for Sarasota and Charlotte Counties. The goal of CHIP is to improve the physical, mental, social, and environmental health of all citizens and communities in the Sarasota area. Community Health Action Teams and a regional team of health care leaders, social profit agencies and volunteers work together to make this happen through community engagement and solution-building, research and benchmarking and regional planning and implementation.

For more information about CHIP, visit www.chip4health.org.

INTRODUCTION

Community health is a multifaceted concept that is not easily conceived nor measured. While most agree that health is more than the absence of disease, the definition and measurement of community health is less well accepted. The factors that influence community health are frequently identified as disease and disability, births and deaths and health resources and expenditures. Yet community health is much more than what is reflected in disease and mortality indicators. It is also health knowledge and behaviors, access to health insurance and medical care, unmet medical care needs and much more.

The source of this critical information is the community, or community voices. Community voices reflect the stories of community members. They provide the data that often explain patterns of disease or health care utilization. These are the voices of residents that are without health insurance or who need assistance with activities of daily living, or the voices of residents who do not know where to get discounted medications or who to call for a ride to the doctor. These voices complement our health statistics and complete the mosaic that is community health.

The Community Health Improvement Project (CHIP) has been working to assess the health and health care needs of residents of Sarasota County through the collection of many sources of community health data. To complete the picture of community health, CHIP surveyed residents of Sarasota County concerning their health, healthcare needs and perspectives on the issues that determine the health of a community.

The 2006 Community Health Survey represents the second community health survey conducted by CHIP. In 2003, a survey was conducted among South Sarasota County residents. Residents from all parts of Sarasota County were included in the most recent survey. This report summarizes these data.

METHODOLOGY

Overview

In the fall of 2006, the Community Health Improvement Partnership (CHIP) administered a community health survey. The 2006 Sarasota County Community Health Survey was a written, 67-question survey mailed to households in Sarasota County, Florida.

Survey Sampling

Only a sample of households in Sarasota County received surveys. These households were selected at random based on a proportional random sampling approach which utilized the census tract as the primary sampling unit. Consistent with this approach, the number of surveys sent to each of the County's census tracts was dependent on the proportion of total Sarasota County households represented by that tract. This means that a larger number of surveys was sent to those tracts with a larger number of total households.

Estimates for the number of Sarasota County households by census tract, updated for 2005, were obtained from a mapping and demographic company. (Current estimates of the number of households, by census tract, were not available from the U.S. Census.) This information was needed to calculate the total number of surveys which needed to be sent to each census tract. A randomly selected list of households was then compiled by a local direct mail company. This became the final sampling frame – a list of all the households which would receive surveys.

Sample Size

The sample was designed to support multivariate analyses at the County level. That is, for Sarasota County (but *not* necessarily for each census tract) we wanted to have enough returned surveys to allow us explore critical health issues among groups representing sociodemographic attributes of interest. For example, at the County level, our sample size is large enough to allow us to pursue analyses comparing the proportion of uninsured across categories of race while controlling for employment or income level.

Population Groups of Interest

Certain population groups were of interest as well. For example, we oversampled in census tracts with a high (more than 20%) proportion of African-American households. In three census tracts, we increased the expected sample by 5 times with the goal of receiving at least 200 surveys from African American households across Sarasota County.

Community Health Action Teams, or CHATs, are CHIP's basic unit of local-level work. CHATs have been active in three South Sarasota County areas since 2003, representing the combined communities of Venice/Osprey/Laurel/Nokomis, North Port and Englewood. We aimed to have at least 200 returned surveys for each CHAT region in South Sarasota County, but without oversampling in Englewood, it would have been unlikely that this number would have been received. Therefore, Englewood census tracts were sampled at a rate 2 times that which would otherwise be expected.

When Sarasota County data are presented, these weighting factors are taken

Notes on Estimates

The reader must be aware that though contemporary statistical inference provides a reasonable level of confidence in the estimates derived from a sample of this size, it is crucial that all estimates be understood as just that—estimates. Estimates are not “perfect numbers”. A level of imprecision is an inherent quality of estimates, and the estimates reported actually refer to an interval – a specific number plus or minus some margin of error. For this survey, the margin of error is about 2%. This shouldn’t be viewed as a flaw, but simply a mathematical reality. In reports such as this, it is common for the actual interval to be abbreviated by just presenting the estimate.

Final Sample

For the 2006 Community Health survey, surveys were mailed to 5000 local addresses. Some surveys were returned undeliverable by the U.S. Postal System (1003 or 20.0 percent). Completed surveys were returned by 2,325 households, or 58 percent of households receiving the survey. The final sample for Sarasota County included survey results from 2,325 households. Surveys mailed to 1,672 households were not returned.

Survey Instrument

The instrument used for this project was developed specifically for this community health survey. The content of the survey reflects health priorities in Sarasota County or information that was otherwise desired by CHIP, CHIP’s Community Health Action Teams and other community partners. The development of the survey instrument was a collaborative process that took place over a period of several months. Most of the questions in the survey come from previously validated survey instruments, though some questions were developed specifically for this survey.

Focus groups helped to shaped the content of the survey, as well as the look and feel of the instrument. A survey pilot test was also conducted prior to the full survey administration. Results of pilot testing also helped to inform the development of the survey instrument.

Data Management

A Microsoft Access database was created for data entry and management of the household survey data. All surveys were entered into the password-protected database. Following data entry, data were cleaned for out-of-range entries, duplicate surveys, and other data errors.

Analysis

Analysis of the data was completed using SAS 9.1.3 Statistical software (SAS Institute, Cary, NC).

CHARACTERISTICS OF SURVEY RESPONDENTS

AGE	
Sarasota County	
	Percent
18 - 24	1.1
25 - 34	6.1
35-44	13.7
45-54	19.7
55-64	21.3
65-74	19.0
75 and above	19.1
<i>Number Responding</i>	1908

GENDER	
Sarasota County	
	Percent
Female	67.5
Male	32.5
<i>Number Responding</i>	1933

RACE	
Sarasota County	
	Percent
American Indian or Alaskan Native	1.6
Asian	1.0
Black or African American	2.3
Native Hawaiian or Pacific Islander	0.2
White or Caucasian	95.3
<i>Number Responding</i>	1933

HISPANIC OR LATINO	
Sarasota County	
	Percent
	3.0
<i>Number Responding</i>	1896

MARITAL STATUS	
Sarasota County	
	Percent
Married	55.3
Divorced	17.5
Widowed	16.0
Separated	1.7
Never Married	8.4
Other	1.2
<i>Number Responding</i>	1929

EDUCATION**Sarasota County**

	<i>Percent</i>
Never attended school	0.1
5th grade or lower	0.3
11th grade or lower	3.0
12th grade or lower	33.3
Associates degree or technical school	26.7
Bachelors degree	21.5
Masters Degree or higher	15.0
Dont Know	0.1
<i>Number Responding</i>	1919

EMPLOYMENT**Sarasota County**

	<i>Percent</i>
Employed full time	34.8
Employed part time	10.3
Self-Employed	8.6
Out of work for more than 1 year	2.4
Out of work for less than 1 year	1.4
Retired	35.1
Unable to Work	2.5
Other	5.0
<i>Number Responding</i>	1934

ANNUAL HOUSEHOLD INCOME**Sarasota County**

	<i>Percent</i>
Under \$29,999	23.8
\$30,000-\$49,999	28.7
\$50,000-\$99,999	29.6
\$100,000-149,999	9.6
\$150,000-\$199,999	3.8
\$200,000 or above	4.4
<i>Number Responding</i>	1748

HEALTH STATUS

SELF-REPORTED HEALTH STATUS

Sarasota County

	<i>Percent</i>
Excellent	16.3
Very Good	41.3
Good	30.2
Fair	9.8
Poor	2.3
<i>Number Responding</i>	1928

HEALTH CONDITIONS REPORTED BY RESPONDENT

“Have you ever had, or do you have any of the following conditions? ...”

Sarasota County

	<i>Percent</i>
Alzheimer's	0.3
Arthritis	30.4
Alcohol Dependency	3.1
Asthma	8.0
Cancer	12.7
Diabetes	8.7
Depression	16.5
Drug Dependency	1.5
Heart Disease	11.6
Hepatitis	3.4
High Blood Pressure	34.8
High Cholesterol	31.3
HIV/AIDS	0.2
STD	3.0
Weight Problems	25.4
Other	

Percentages sum to greater than 100 because individuals had the option of selecting more than one response.

HEALTHCARE ACCESS

RESPONDENTS WITH A PRIMARY CARE PROVIDER

Sarasota County

Percent

86.4

Number Responding 1954

"WHERE WOULD YOU NORMALLY GO IF YOU NEEDED MEDICAL CARE?"

Sarasota County

Percent

A doctor's office 82.4

Health department or community clinic 2.3

Hospital Emergency Room 4.7

Walk-in clinic 7.6

Dont Know 1.9

Other 1.1

Number Responding 1896

INSURANCE STATUS

Includes only those individuals under age 65.

Sarasota County

Percent

Uninsured 15.8

Insured 84.2

Number Responding 1154

MAIN REASON FOR NOT HAVING INSURANCE

Includes only those individuals under age 65, without health insurance.

Sarasota County

	<i>Percent</i>
Too expensive/premium too high/can't afford	77.1
Medical problems / pre-existing conditions	4.1
Don't believe in insurance	1.3
Don't need insurance/usually healthy	4.7
Employer doesn't offer insurance	2.9
Not employed	4.2
Waiting for coverage (e.g. less than 90 days on job)	1.4
New to area or moving from area soon	0.1
Don't know	2.3
Other	2.0
<i>Number Responding</i>	<i>160</i>

"DO YOU KNOW OF ANY CLINICS THAT TREAT PEOPLE WHO ARE UNINSURED AND CANNOT AFFORD MEDICAL CARE?"**Sarasota County**

	<i>Percent</i>
Yes	19.0
No	81.0
<i>Number Responding</i>	<i>1886</i>

"WAS THERE A TIME IN THE PAST 12 MONTHS WHEN YOU NEEDED MEDICAL CARE BUT COULD NOT GET IT?"**Sarasota County**

	<i>Percent</i>
Yes	9.0
No	85.6
Don't Know	5.4
<i>Number Responding</i>	<i>1921</i>

"HAVE YOU OR A MEMBER OF THE HOUSEHOLD USED AN EMERGENCY ROOM IN THE PAST YEAR?"**Sarasota County**

	<i>Percent</i>
Yes	37.1
No	62.9
<i>Number Responding</i>	<i>1921</i>

HEALTH BEHAVIORS

"DURING THE PAST 30 DAYS, OTHER THAN AT YOUR REGULAR JOB, DID YOU PARTICIPATE IN ANY PHYSICAL ACTIVITY FOR EXERCISE?"

Sarasota County

	<i>Percent</i>
Yes	80.8
No	19.2
<i>Number Responding</i> 1906	

"DO YOU KNOW OF ANY PROGRAMS IN YOUR COMMUNITY THAT CAN HELP YOU BECOME HEALTHIER?"

Sarasota County

	<i>Percent</i>
Yes	35.8
No	64.3
<i>Number Responding</i> 1902	

MENTAL HEALTH AND SUBSTANCE ABUSE

"TAKEN ALL TOGETHER, WOULD YOU SAY THAT YOU ARE ... "

Sarasota County

	<i>Percent</i>
Very Happy	38.9
Pretty Happy	53.7
Not too Happy	7.5
<i>Number Responding</i>	1946

"DOES ANYONE ELSE IN THE HOUSEHOLD HAVE A MENTAL HEALTH PROBLEM?"

Sarasota County

	<i>Percent</i>
Yes	7.9
No	88.6
Don't Know	3.5
<i>Number Responding</i>	1832

IF YES, IS THIS PERSON GETTING TREATMENT FOR THIS PROBLEM?

Yes	56.9
No	43.1
<i>Number Responding</i>	1832

"DOES ANYONE ELSE IN THE HOUSEHOLD HAVE A MENTAL HEALTH PROBLEM?"

Sarasota County

	<i>Percent</i>
Someone has an alcohol problem	6.7
Someone has a drug problem	2.9
No one does	82.9

Percentages do not sum to 100 because individuals had the option of selecting more than one response.

IF YES, IS THIS PERSON GETTING TREATMENT FOR THIS PROBLEM?

Yes	25.6
No	74.7
<i>Number Responding</i>	144

PERSPECTIVES

"CHECK THREE ITEMS THAT YOU BELIEVE ARE THE MOST IMPORTANT HEALTH CONCERNS IN YOUR COMMUNITY "

Sarasota County	
	<i>Percent</i>
Aging problems (Alzheimer's, arthritis)	61.4
Chronic diseases	43.8
Alcohol and drug abuse	36.2
Poor diet/lack of exercise	25.2
Lack of access to healthcare	24.0
Child abuse/neglect	18.5
Motor vehicle crashes	16.8
Tobacco Use	15.1
Homelessness	13.5
Mental Health Issues	11.9
Domestic Violence	10.7
Teenage Pregnancy	3.7
Sexually Transmitted Diseases	3.1
Infectious Diseases	2.3
Rape/Sexual Assault	1.9
Firearm related injuries	1.2
Homicide	1.2
Suicide	0.3

Percentages do not sum to 100 because individuals had the option of selecting more than one response.

"CHECK THREE ITEMS THAT YOU BELIEVE ARE THE MOST IMPORTANT FOR A HEALTHY COMMUNITY "

Sarasota County	
	<i>Percent</i>
Low crime/safe neighborhoods	47.4
Access to healthcare & other services	40.7
Good schools	33.2
Good jobs and healthy economy	31.1
Strong family life	29.5
Affordable housing	28.5
Healthy behaviors and lifestyles	25.8
Religious or spiritual values	21.8
Clean environment	21.2
Community involvement	20.2
Parks and recreation	8.3
Tolerance for diversity	6.6
Low level of child abuse	6.3
Arts and cultural events	4.6
Low death and disease rates	2.1

Percentages do not sum to 100 because individuals had the option of selecting more than one response.