

# OVERVIEW: ACCESS TO CARE

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Attaining good access to care requires three discrete steps:

1. Gaining entry into the health care system.
2. Getting access to sites of care where patients can receive needed services.
3. Finding providers who meet the needs of individual patients and with whom patients can develop a relationship based on mutual communication and trust.

*Health and Human Services  
Healthy People 2020*

Social & Economic Factors:

1. The percentage of people living below the poverty level in Pinellas was 12.1% (13.8% FL) in 2010, increasing to 22.7% of families with children under 5 (22.5% FL).
2. Pinellas County Health and Human Services recently compiled a report, ***The Economic Impact of Poverty***, in which five communities in Pinellas were identified as at risk; East Tarpon Springs, North Greenwood, Highpoint, Lealman Corridor, and South St. Petersburg. Each of these communities has at least 16% of its residents living in poverty.
3. In Pinellas, 26% of adults 18-64 were uninsured in 2010 (29.9% FL).
4. In Pinellas, 10% of children under 18 had no health insurance in 2010 (12.7% FL).
5. The Pinellas County 2011 unemployment rate was 10.5%, the same as FL, but higher than national rate (8.9%).
6. A 2009 analysis indicated that 27% of households spend more than 30% of their income for housing and 11% spend more than 50% of their income for housing. The median gross rent in Pinellas County is \$904 (\$957 FL).
7. 2010 CPPW BRFSS results indicated that 16.7% of adults reported that someone within their household had been authorized to receive WIC or Food Stamp benefits within the past year.

### Provider Accessibility:

1. Pinellas County has 5 Health Professional Shortage Areas (both medical and dental) for the low income population and 5 Medically Underserved Populations, or groups of people who face economic, cultural, or linguistic barriers to health care: St. Petersburg, central Clearwater, Tarpon Springs, Bayview, and the Largo service areas.
2. The number of licensed dentist in Pinellas is lower than the state rate, 61.3 per 100,000 in Pinellas County and 63.0 per 100,000 statewide.
3. 18.9% of adults reported not having a personal healthcare provider and 31.6% reported having not seen a healthcare provider for a routine checkup in the previous year.
4. 2010 BRFSS found that 16.1% of adults within the county (17.3% FL) could not see a health care provider in the past year due to cost; increased from 13.9% in 2007.
5. 2010 BRFSS found that 70.9% of Pinellas adults (64.7% FL) visited a dentist or dental clinic in the past year.
6. The Pinellas preventable hospital stay rate in 2009 was 62/1,000 Medicare enrollees (64/1,000 Medicare enrollees FL).

### Maternal and Child Health:

1. The rate of women who access prenatal care in the 1<sup>st</sup> trimester is higher among white woman (81%) than women who are Hispanic (74.8%) and black (66.1%) in the county (2009-2011).
2. The overall infant death rate for children under one year is higher in Pinellas County (7.9 per 1,000 live births 2009-2011) than both the state (6.6 per 1,000 live births) and the Healthy People 2010 goal (6 per 1,000 live births)
  - o The rate is higher among infants born to women who are black (17.3 per 1,000) and Hispanic (10.1/1,000) than who are white (5.7/1,000) in Pinellas.
3. The rate of low birth weight infants among black women was 15% of live births, compared to 7.1% among white women and 6.8 % among Hispanic women in Pinellas in 2009-2011.
4. The percentage of births to uninsured women in Pinellas (6.9% in 2009-2011) is lower than state rate (8.9%), but still places Pinellas in 3<sup>rd</sup> quartile in FL.
5. 50% of births in Pinellas (48.7% FL) were covered by Medicaid in 2009-2011.
6. The rate of births to Pinellas mothers ages 15-19 has been on the decline and was 32.5/1,000 in 2009-2011 (32.9/1,000 FL).

## Key Community Themes & Strengths Findings:

1. Access to Care was the #1 factor most important for a healthy community, selected by 59.4% of Pinellas County Community Health Survey respondents as one of the top three factors most important for a healthy community.
2. 24.8% of Community Health Survey respondents stated their annual household income is less than \$15,000 while 25.8% stated their annual income is \$55,000 or more.