



BETHESDA HEALTH

## **Community Health Needs Assessment**

### **Executive Summary**

Bethesda Hospital, inclusive of Bethesda Hospital East and Bethesda Hospital West, is a comprehensive community-based hospital system that serves a diverse community with diverse needs including seniors, families, infants and children. To address the local health needs of our community, Bethesda Hospital developed a Community Health Needs Assessment. Bethesda Hospital also completed a Quality of Life Assessment Report. As part of the new IRS regulations, hospital organizations are required to conduct a community health needs assessment, which serves as a guiding document for strategic planning.

Palm Beach County is the largest county in the state of Florida in total area, and third in population. A community based needs assessment of Palm Beach County aids in identifying and addressing the specific needs and or gaps currently in the healthcare of our residents. The main purpose of the assessment is to improve the health status of Palm Beach County residents and increase access and availability of healthcare services. The main goals of the Community Health Needs Assessment are to:

- Improve health status of Palm Beach County residents
- Address socioeconomic factors that have a negative impact on community health
- Increase access to preventive healthcare services, especially within at-risk sub-populations

A Community Health Needs Assessment Advisory Council was convened with the mission to:

- Guide the assessment process.
- Act as a sounding board and assist in obtaining community input.
- Participate with the Planning Team in evaluating health issues and priorities once the assessment is completed.
- Engage in collaborative action planning on an ongoing basis.

The following provides a summary of the quantitative and qualitative data sets that was examined during the council meetings.

### **PALM BEACH COUNTY DEMOGRAPHICS**

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- Palm Beach County has a higher percentage of minorities than any other county in Florida, with nearly 20 percent of the population being Hispanic. According to the 2010 US Census, Palm Beach County is home to 250,823 Hispanics.
- More than 20% of the Palm Beach County population is 65 and over. In fact, more than 40% of the population is aged 50 and over. The greatest population increase occurred among the 50-64 age groups; and the greatest population decrease occurred in the 35-39 age group and the 70-79 age group.
- The growing foreclosure crisis among Florida homeowners has created a new group of homeless individuals and increased the demand for affordable rental housing. Palm Beach County shows a greater percentage of homeownership when compared to

percentage of homeownership in Florida overall. However, Palm Beach County has a lower percentage of renter-occupied units than the percentage of renter-occupied units in the state overall.

- The School District of Palm Beach County (SDPBC) is the thirteenth largest public school district in the United States, and the fifth largest school district in Florida. For the 2010-2011 academic year, enrollment in the School District of Palm Beach County totaled 171,692 students in Pre-K through 12th grades. For the 2011-2012 academic year, enrollment increased to 174,004 students in Pre-K through 12th grades.
- Palm Beach County has been significantly impacted by unemployment (6.4% in 2008 compared to 10.1% in November 2011), reflecting the current economic crisis.
- Nearly 10% of Palm Beach County residents live below the Federal Poverty Level, with more than 22.7% of people under the age of 18 living below Federal Poverty Level. Of those families with children under the age of 18, 17.5% were reported at or below the Federal Poverty Level (FPL). Approximately 24.4% of families with only a female householder were reported to be below the Federal Poverty Level, while only 5.9% of married couple families were reported to be below the poverty line.
- There has been a steady increase in the number of individuals and families receiving public assistance (Food Stamps and Medicaid), though a decrease in TANF enrollment.
- In 2010, the U.S. Census Bureau estimated that 21 percent of Palm Beach County's noninstitutionalized civilian residents were uninsured, which is greater than 15.5 percent of U.S. residents. When compared to Florida and the United States, Palm Beach County also had a higher rate of uninsured among children less than 18 years of age, as well as residents ages 18-64.

## **MORTALITY AND MORBIDITY**

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- Palm Beach County has seen a decrease in the Age Adjusted Death Rates per 100,000 Population since 2006.
- Heart Disease has consistently been the number one leading cause of death for individuals 75 years of age and older. Meanwhile, Cancer has been the number one leading cause of death for individuals between the age of 45 and 74 years. The leading cause of death for individuals between the age of 1 and 34 years has been unintentional injury since 2006.
- Death rates due to coronary heart disease and cancer has been decreasing steadily among all races/ethnicities in Palm Beach County from 2006 to 2010. However, to be noted is the rate among blacks is significantly greater than other races.
- Hypertension, Diabetes, and Congestive Heart Failure account for the highest number of chronic disease cases discharged and the highest charges from Hospitals in Palm Beach County.
- In the last three years, the death rate from Unintentional Injuries have decreased in Palm Beach County; however, unintentional poisoning has increased significantly in Palm Beach County since the late 1990s. Also, the overall death rates related to unintentional falls have increased over the years, particularly among seniors ages 65 and over.
- While the number of HIV/AIDS cases fluctuates from year to year, 2010 shows a decrease in HIV and AIDS cases. Males and minorities represent a vast majority of individuals living with HIV/AIDS.

- In the category of sexually transmitted infections, Palm Beach County has seen a steady increase in reported Chlamydia cases from 2000 to 2010.

## **MATERNAL AND CHILD HEALTH**

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- Although the rate of total live births has slightly declined in Palm Beach County, it remains higher than Florida's rate statewide.
- The overall Infant Mortality Rate in Palm Beach County has decreased (5.6 infant deaths per 1,000 population).
- Teen Pregnancy percentages have decreased from 2008 to 2010. The number of repeat births has also decreased over the past year.
- 4.6% of births in Palm Beach County occur with late or no prenatal care.
- Palm Beach County saw a significant increase in the percentage of births to mothers without insurance (7.2% in 2000 to 18.4% in 2009).
- In Palm Beach County, low birth weight was the outcome for 8.9% of births.
- The BRHPC Health Data Warehouse Prevention Quality Indicators show that in 2010, there were 124 low birth weight deliveries at Bethesda Hospital that could have been prevented.
- The BRHPC Health Data Warehouse Prevention Quality Indicators show that in 2010, nearly 50% of preventable low birth weight deliveries were black.
- Florida Charts shows that, in 2010, 75.8% of Palm Beach County two-year olds who are up to date with their immunizations, a decrease from the previous year.

## **BEHAVIORAL HEALTH RISKS**

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- The Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System shows that 62.6% of Palm Beach County men have had a colonoscopy and 52.5% have received a digital rectal exam.
- The Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System shows that 10.1% of Palm Beach County adults have been diagnosed with diabetes.
- The Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System shows that 41.8% of Palm Beach County adults are overweight and 19.4% are obese, for a combined total of 61.2% of adults being overweight or obese.
- The Youth Risk Behavior Survey shows that 13.3% of Palm Beach County students are overweight and 9.8% are obese, for a combined total of 23.1% of students being overweight or obese.
- The Youth Risk Behavior Survey shows that 54.7% of Palm Beach County students are sexually active, 15.4% currently use cigarettes, and 44.2% currently use alcohol.

## **SUICIDE AND SELF-INFLICTED INJURY**

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- The suicide death rate in Palm Beach County has steadily increased since 2007, which correlates with onset of our nation's economic crisis. A notable increase is observed among 45-54 year-olds.

## **HOSPITAL UTILIZATION**

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- Bethesda Hospital admissions account for 7.32% of all Palm Beach County hospital admissions with 20,584 admissions in 2011.
- In Bethesda Hospital, the number of Emergency Department adult and pediatric visits remained relatively flat; however, inpatient admissions increased from 2009 to 2011.

## **PREVENTION QUALITY INDICATORS**

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- Prevention Quality Indicators (PQI) identify hospital admissions where evidence suggests that they could have been avoided if people were linked to quality, preventive services and primary care centers.
- The BRHPC Health Data Warehouse Prevention Quality Indicators show that in 2010, Palm Beach County hospitals, including Bethesda Hospital, show that Congestive Heart Failure and Bacterial Pneumonia accounted for the greatest number of PQI cases and charges.

## **FOCUS GROUPS**

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A series of focus groups were conducted with the goal to collect qualitative data from diverse groups of healthcare consumers and service providers in Palm Beach County. Some of the reported challenges and barriers to healthcare include:

- Financial concerns (affordability)
  - Lack of knowledge about availability of services in the county
  - Eligibility requirements
  - Transportation issues (accessibility)
  - Language barriers/cultural sensitivity
  - Education - Knowledge about health insurance benefits and community services
- Quotes
- Consumer: “Quality of service begins with the individual, with the person at the front door, with each nurse, each doctor.”
  - Provider: “A huge portion of people that call here looking for help have no way of paying for it.”

## **CONCLUSION**

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Based on review and analysis of the various qualitative and quantitative data sets presented, the Community Needs Assessment Advisory Council established the following priorities:

- Reduce the number of pre-term/premature births.
- Increase the number of children enrolled in the Florida Kidcare Program.
- Prevent and reduce the number of unnecessary hospital admissions for pediatric asthma through increase awareness and education.
- Reduce the incidence of newly diagnosed cases of diabetes in the senior population.

Due to the increasingly diverse population of Palm Beach County, the areas of need for the community have also become increasingly complex. For instance, the fluctuations in the economy have negatively affected Palm Beach County by an increase in unemployment rates. The recommended next steps for Bethesda Hospital are to 1) Develop an Action Plan for each 2012 priority; 2) Incorporate and implement Healthcare Reform elements and partnership opportunities; 3) Present the results to the community; 4) Implement and track improvements over the next three years, and 5) Report back to the community. As our community evolves, we will continue to look for new and enhanced ways to meet these needs.

## **ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS**

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Bethesda Hospital would like to thank the following members of the Community Health Needs Assessment Advisory Council:

- Boulevard Rehabilitation Center
- Broward Regional Health Planning Council
- Caridad Center
- Coalition of Boynton West Residential Associations (COBWRA)
- Greater Boynton Beach Chamber of Commerce
- Gulfstream Goodwill Transition to Life Academy
- Health Council Southeast Florida
- Jewish Community Center
- March of Dimes, South Florida
- Palm Beach County Health Department
- The School District of Palm Beach County/School Health Advisory Council
- Your Aging Resource Center