



Brevard County's Health

The recently published national study "America's Health: State Health Rankings" ranks the State of Florida at Number 42 of 50 states. This is the same ranking that the State occupied in 2003. The report, published jointly by the United Health Foundation, the American Public Health Association and Partnership for Prevention, has marked the progress of the nation's health since 1990 – showing an overall improvement averaging 1.5% each year during the 1990's, but leveling off and even worsening in some areas since 2000.

The study has identified a combination of risk factors and outcomes that together present a comprehensive view of the overall health of a state. It proposes that overall health is the result of a combination of personal behaviors, the community environment, and health care system policies and practices. The following criteria have been identified and tracked for every state and rankings determined according to a proprietary calculation.

Risk Factors

1. Personal Behaviors
 - Prevalence of Smoking
 - Motor Vehicle Deaths
 - Prevalence of Obesity
 - High School Graduation
2. Community Environment
 - Violent Crime
 - Lack of Health Insurance
 - Infectious Disease
 - Children in Poverty
 - Occupational Fatalities *
3. Health Policies
 - Percent of Health Dollars for Public Health
 - Per Capita Public Health Spending
 - Adequacy of Prenatal Care

Outcomes

1. Limited Activity Days
2. Cardiovascular Deaths
3. Cancer Deaths
4. Total Mortality
5. Infant Mortality
6. Premature Death

Using the most recent data available, we have chosen to use the same criteria to extend this assessment to Brevard County. County health indicators are better than the nation and the state in Prevalence of Smoking, Prevalence of Obesity, High School Graduation, Health Insurance Coverage, Infectious Disease, Children in Poverty, Prenatal Care, Limited Activity Days and Infant Mortality. County health indicators are worse than the nation and the state in Violent Crime, Per Capita Public Health Spending and Premature Death.

RISK FACTORS	U.S.	FLORIDA	BREVARD COUNTY
<p>Prevalence of Smoking: Percentage of population that smokes on a regular basis. "This is an indication of known, addictive, health-adverse behaviors within the population." County Data Source: 2004 PRC Community Health Assessment: East Central Florida US & Florida Data Source: CDC Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System, 2002</p>	22.0%	22.2%	17.4%
<p>Motor Vehicle Deaths: Number of deaths per 100,000 population. This is "a proxy indicator for excessive drug and alcohol use within a population." County Data Source: Florida Office of Vital Statistics, 2003 US & Florida Data Source: National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, 2003</p>	14.7	18.6	18.5
<p>Prevalence of Obesity: Percentage of the population self-identified as obese. "Obesity is known to contribute to a variety of diseases, including heart disease, diabetes and general poor health." County Data Source: 2004 PRC Community Health Assessment: East Central Florida US & Florida Data Source: CDC Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System, 2002</p>	22.8%	22.3%	19.4%
<p>High School Graduation: Percentage of 9th graders who graduate high school in four years with a regular diploma. "It is an indication of the consumer's ability to learn about, create and maintain a healthy lifestyle and to understand and access health care when required." Data Source: Florida Department of Education, 2002-2003</p>	68.3%	69%	88.4%
<p>Violent Crime: Number of murders, rapes, robberies and aggravated assaults per 100,000 population. "It reflects an aspect of overall lifestyle within a [community] and its associated health risks." Data Source: FDLE Uniform Crime Report, Florida Office of Vital Statistics, 2001-2003</p>	495	759.6	762
<p>Lack of Health Insurance: Percentage of the population under 65 years of age that does not have health insurance, either privately, through an employer or through the government. "This is another indicator of the ability to access care as needed, especially preventive care." County Data Source: Agency for Health Care Administration, Florida Health Insurance Study, 2004 US & Florida Data Source: CDC Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System, 2002</p>	15.6%	19.2%	14.1%
<p>Infectious Disease: Number of reported AIDS, TB and hepatitis cases per 100,000 population. "This is an indication of the toll that infectious disease is placing on the population." Data Source: Florida Department of Health, Division of Disease Control, 2001-2003</p>	26.1	44.2	20.8
<p>Children in Poverty: Percentage of persons under age 18 who live in households at or below the poverty level. "Poverty is an indication of the lack of access by this vulnerable population to health care." Data Source: US Census Bureau, 2000</p>	17.6%	17.2%	13.5%
<p>Per Capita Public Health Spending: Dollars spent on public health per resident. "This indicates the actual financial commitment a [community] has made to public health." County Data Source: Florida Department of Health Fiscal Office, 2001 US & Florida Data Source: National Association of State Budget Officers 2001</p>	\$59	\$66	\$28
<p>Adequacy of Prenatal Care: Percentage of pregnant women receiving adequate prenatal care, as defined by the Kessner Index. "This measures how well women are receiving the care they require for a healthy pregnancy and development of the fetus." Data Source: Florida Department of Health, 2001-2003</p>	76.2%	85.1%	86.7%

OUTCOMES	U.S.	FLORIDA	BREVARD COUNTY
Limited Activity Days: Percentage of the population self-identified as having their activities limited due to physical or mental difficulties. "This is a general indication of the population's ability to function on a day-to-day basis." County Data Source: 2004 PRC Community Health Assessment: East Central Florida US & Florida Data Source: CDC Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System, 2002	Data not available on the national level	20.2%	19.3%
Cardiovascular Deaths: Number of deaths due to all cardiovascular disease, including heart attack and stroke, per 100,000 population. "This is an indication of the toll that these types of diseases place on the population." Data Source: Florida Office of Vital Statistics, 2001-2003	336.6	262.6	273.2
Cancer Deaths: Number of deaths due to all causes of cancer per 100,000 population. "This is an indication of the toll cancer is placing on the population." Data Source: Florida Office of Vital Statistics, 2001-2003	204.1	178.7	196.4
Total Mortality: Number of deaths per 100,000 population. "This is an overall indicator of health of a population as it measures death from all causes." Data Source: Florida Office of Vital Statistics, 2001-2003	867.1	773	797.7
Infant Mortality: Number of infant deaths (before age 1) per 1,000 live births. "This is an indication of the prenatal care, access and birth process for both child and mother." Data Source: Florida Department of Health, 2001-2003	7.0	7.4	6.3
Premature Death (<= 75): Number of years of potential life lost prior to age 75 per 100,000 population. "This is an indication of the number of useful years of life that are not available to a population due to early death." Data Source: Florida Office of Vital Statistics, 2003	7,521	8,227	8,919

*** Note:**

The following indicators have been omitted from this report:

Occupational Fatalities - Meaningful data are not available from year to year at a county level due to confidentiality requirements to suppress data for less than 5 deaths from occupational injuries, depending on the size of the county and the number of major industries in that county.

Percent of Health Dollars for Public Health – Comparable data are not available at a county level for all of the components that comprise “public health finding”.

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