

Community Voices: Results of the CHIP Health Survey

*A report on health care
needs in the communities of
Englewood, North Port,
Laurel, Osprey, Venice and Nokomis*



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Community Voices: Results of the CHIP Health Survey

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

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 Community Health Improvement Project (CHIP) and its Community Health Action Teams (CHATs) have endeavored to discern patterns of health and disease in the communities in South Sarasota and North Charlotte Counties. Volunteer community groups have examined more than 150 indicators of disease and health outcomes, they have heard experts explain the financial and delivery issues facing the local health care systems, and they have shared their personal knowledge of living in and knowing residents with health problems and barriers to care in these communities.

To supplement these sources of data with qualitative information on community health, CHIP completed a survey of residents in the CHAT areas which include Englewood, North Port and the Laurel/Osprey/Venice and Nokomis (referred to as LOVN) communities. A random sample of residents was asked to participate in a survey concerning health and health care needs. Interviews were completed in person and by phone with more than 734 residents. These data have been analyzed and are summarized here for use by the CHATs and others to further understand local health care needs and to develop effective solutions.

Survey Findings

Health Insurance

Health Insurance coverage is a problem for many residents in the areas surveyed: more than 16 percent of respondents are without any form of health insurance. Residents of North Port are least likely to have health insurance, with more than 22% of those surveyed reporting that they have no health insurance, compared to only 11.1% of residents of the LOVN area. The absence of insurance is a relatively new phenomenon for many surveyed, with 34% of those without health insurance reporting that they recently lost coverage. Respondents in the lowest income bracket were least likely to have health insurance: 30% of those with household income below \$25,000 per year had no insurance. Black residents are also more disadvantaged in terms of coverage, with nearly 19% of black residents reporting no health insurance.

Although employer sponsored insurance is typically the most common source of health insurance, respondents in these communities were slightly more likely to be covered by Medicare (37%) than employer-sponsored insurance (36.7%). Private insurance covered 11.4% of those interviewed, followed by Medicaid, which covered 5.0%. Even among those insured, family members are not always covered: 24.5% of the insured do not have family coverage. Residents of the LOVN CHAT area are the most likely (45%) to be covered by Medicare, compared to 33% in Englewood and 31% in North Port.

When the uninsured were asked if they could have insurance but choose not to purchase it, more than 55% reported yes. Affordability was the chief reason, regardless of income, for not purchasing insurance: nearly 80% stated that they could not afford the premiums. Only 9% said they did not purchase it because they did not want to have health insurance. When asked about additional insurances, just over 40% of respondents reported having supplemental insurance while only 14.6% reported having long-term care insurance (14.6%).

Overall, these insurance findings are consistent with national studies as well as local trends that show a rapidly growing proportion of the uninsured due to the increased costs of insurance. Fewer businesses are able to offer employees coverage and fewer employees are able to pay the premiums when coverage is offered. As insurance coverage declines in the community, the costs of health care are shouldered by local hospitals and taxpayers due to an increased use of emergency room care or increased severity of health care problems among the uninsured who often delay care.

Access to Care

Due to the wealth of health care services in the community, the vast majority of residents (86.3%) live within 30 minutes of their health care provider's office. However, North Port residents are least likely to report close proximity to a health care provider, with fewer than 40% reporting travel of 15 minutes or less, compared to approximately 60% in the other communities.

Among those without insurance, most respondents reported that they would go to an emergency room (42.4%), or to a public clinic or health center (13.3%) if they needed health care. A few respondents reported that they would use a doctor's office or other facilities.

Dental Care

Access to dental services is similarly constrained for area residents who are without the income or insurance to pay for this health care expense. Nearly 40% of respondents had not had a dental exam or teeth cleaning in the past year, with a large proportion (41.6%) reporting that this was due to the costs of such care. North Port residents were most likely to report not going to the dentist in the past year (49.8%).

When asked if they had any dental care needs they could not get met, 17.7% of respondents overall and 24.8% of respondents in North Port reported that they were unable to get needed dental care. Again, the uninsured were most likely to be unable to access needed dental care, with 42.6% of the uninsured as compared to 12.1% of the insured reporting a lack of access.

Concerns for the Future

Some residents currently have health insurance and/or the income to pay for medical care expenses but still worry that they may not be able to afford health care costs in the near future. More than 30% of survey respondents were "worried" that they may not be able to afford prescription drugs in the coming year. Nearly 29% were worried that they may not be able to pay for health care in the coming year, and just under 44% were worried that they may not be able to afford health insurance. These responses varied some by CHAT area, with North Port residents most likely to report being worried about affording prescription drugs (41.1%), health care (41.3%) and health insurance (52%). When asked if they were worried about losing their health insurance in the coming year, 22% of residents in LOVN and Englewood, and 40% of residents in North Port reported that they were worried.

Health Status

When asked to rate their health status, only 15.5% of survey respondents reported their health status as "excellent", while the largest proportion (33%) reported that their health was "very good". More than 31% reported "good" health, while 14.7% reported "fair" and 5.4% reported "poor" health. These figures vary notably by income levels, with more than 41% of those who reported excellent health reporting average income (\$25,000 to \$50,000) while only 19.8% of those with excellent health reporting low income. Residents of North Port were least likely to report excellent health (12.8%) and most likely to report poor health (7.5%).

Predominant health conditions reported in this survey were high blood pressure, allergies, high cholesterol, weight problems, dental problems, heart problems, depression and diabetes. Residents of North Port were more likely to report asthma and dental problems, while Englewood residents were more likely to report high blood pressure. Weight problems were also prevalent, with approximately 30% of respondents from Englewood and North Port, and 20% of respondents from the LOVN area

reporting weight problems. Very few respondents reported difficulties in their activities of daily living, such as taking care of themselves, getting out of bed or a chair, or walking indoors. While fewer than 3% of respondents reported “much difficulty” with these activities, a larger proportion reported “some difficulty:” 6.7%, 12% and 9.2% for each activity, respectively.

Mental Health

More than 16% of respondents reported difficulties in the past month completing their usual activities because they felt sad, down, depressed or anxious. This percentage was fairly consistent across CHAT areas. The proportion of these respondents who sought help for this problem was 50% overall. Residents of Englewood who reported difficulties completing usual activities were most likely to have sought mental health treatment at 57.1%. More than 17% of respondents reported difficulties concentrating, with similar proportions as above reporting that they sought treatment for this problem.

When all respondents were asked if they knew where to go to obtain help with mental health problems if they or a family member experienced anxiety, depression or other mental health issue, the majority of respondents reported yes: 72.2%. Among those who needed treatment, a small percentage 2.4% needed treatment but could not get it. Substance abuse problems were reported by only 3.6% of households overall, and 6.3% of the households in the LOVN area. While only 29% overall were receiving mental health treatment, more than 43% of LOVN respondents were.

Physical and Emotional Health

The availability of support when one is confined to bed or ill is a very important form of social connectedness. Most survey participants reported that they had assistance “all” or “most of the time” if they were to be confined to bed or if they needed help preparing meals or with daily chores. Yet, a significant proportion also reported having this support “none” or only “a little” of the time. Approximately 12% of respondents reported no support and between 5% and 7% reported help only “a little” of the time. These figures varied some by CHAT area, with North Port residents being more likely to report the absence of support (14.8% to 16.8%, depending on the activity). Most respondents reported that they were able to do their own grocery shopping (95.5%) and most (92.6%) reported that they still drove and had access to a car.

Emotional support can be as important to health improvement as is physical support. Nearly 95% of respondents reported that they have someone they can count on within one hour’s travel time from their home. However, a small percentage of respondents (5.3%) had no one nearby they could count on. The proportion of residents without local support was 8.5% in North Port and as low as 3.4% in Englewood and the LOVN area. Similarly, most respondents reported that they had someone to listen to them when they needed it: 65.2% “most” or “all of” the time; 9.5% some of the time; 4.1% “a little of the time” and 7.1% “none of the time”. When asked how often they had someone to talk to about their deepest problems, 4.2% reported “none of the time,” and another 6.2% reported “hardly ever.”

Preventative Care

Preventative health behaviors can reduce the need for medical care or identify problems before they become critical. When asked if they had had a physical in the past two years, nearly 80% of respondents said that they had. Respondents with no health insurance were notably less likely to have had a physical: 53.8% as compared to 84.5% among the insured. Retirees were also more likely to have had a physical: 87.4% of retirees, compared to 74% of non-retirees. Most residents (76.5%) agreed that it is “very important” to have regular physicals, while 18.9% thought that routine physicals were only “somewhat important.”

Nearly 95% of respondents reported that they believe it is important to prevent disease through exercise, diet or other activities, yet this belief did not always translate into action. Only 76% of respondents reported that they had regular exercise in the past month; 60% had tried to stop smoking. Fewer than 40% of respondents had had a flu shot in the past year.

Health Information

Knowledge is key to good health behaviors and, often, appropriate health care utilization. When asked where they get their information about health care, most respondents reported their physician (40.9%), a friend (32%), or a family member (17.9%). More than 21% have used a physician's referral line to find a doctor.

Only 36% of survey respondents were aware of programs in the community that could help them become healthier. Of those who were aware of such programs, fewer than 45% participated in these programs. A large proportion of respondents (44.9%) suggested that more health education and wellness programs were needed in the community. Among the types of programs recommended were nutrition and exercise programs, free medical clinics, diabetes and cancer prevention programs, and substance abuse prevention programs. Respondents felt that children and the elderly were most in need of preventative health and wellness programs.

Transportation

The CHATs have been concerned about the lack of adequate public transportation in their communities. While most households surveyed have at least one vehicle, more than 30% share this transportation with a family member or friend on a daily basis. When asked about transportation to health care, 37.6% of respondents reported that they went to a primary care doctor in another community. The largest proportion of respondents goes to Sarasota (32.8%) and Venice (25.2%). Another 21.4% go to Port Charlotte. Residents of North Port were most likely to leave their community for primary care (55.9% in North Port compared to 31% in Englewood and 25.9% in LOVN). The reasons offered for leaving their community for care were that they "liked the provider better" (27%), the "provider has better experience" (14%) or they have to go to a provider "in their insurance plan" (14.7%). Most respondents drove themselves to this care provider (89.7%), or were driven by a family member (6.3%). Respondents with lower income were more likely than those with higher income to report that they had a family member drive them to medical care appointments (11.8% vs. 0%).

When asked about using public transportation, more than 10% of respondents had used it to get to a health care appointment. Nearly 40% reported that they would use more public transportation if it came nearer to their home. These percentages increased as income declined: 17.9% of respondents in the lowest income category had used public transportation to get to a health care appointment and 53.2% reported that they would use public transportation to get to a health care appointment. Residents of North Port (41.3%) were the most likely to report using more public transportation if it were to come closer to their home. When asked about paying taxes to improve public transportation, the majority of respondents (58.6%) said they did not think \$10 in taxes was currently too much to pay for public transportation. When asked about increased taxes for improved services 34.4% of respondents said that they were willing to pay \$10 more for twice as much services, and 17.1% were willing to pay \$20 more for three times as much service.

Hospital Use

When asked what hospital they used or would use if they needed care, the majority of respondents reported that they would use the hospital nearest to their home. A smaller percentage reported that they would travel outside of their community to reach the best hospital care they thought was available.

Emergency Room Use

When asked if they had ever used the emergency room for non-emergency services, nearly 14% reported that they had. The largest proportion reported using the emergency room because other clinics were not open (32.6%) or because of the severity of the illness (25.8%). Residents of the LOVN area were most likely to use the emergency room for non-emergency care (16.9%).

Community Involvement

Survey respondents had many ideas about how these health care issues could be resolved locally, from increasing taxes, to providing free health care services.

Conclusion

Overall, these findings highlight critical gaps in access to health care for a segment of residents in the communities studied. The CHAT are data reflect the demographic heterogeneity of this region and underscore the importance of assessing health care needs at the community-level. For example, the data for North Port suggests the need for improved health insurance coverage and improved access to care for this younger, working-aged population, while the more elderly residents of Englewood and LOVN were more likely to be insured.

The CHATs have used these data to develop their strategic plans and to inform the public of the needs in their communities. While improved access to health insurance and medical care is needed, the CHAT recognize the need for residents to reduce their reliance on the health care system and take full responsibility for their health. Community health can only be improved through a combined effort of individual efforts to improve health and the appropriate delivery and use of medical care to prevent or reduce disease. The CHATs are working in their communities to implement such efforts.

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 are 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 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 in South Sarasota and North Charlotte County communities through the collection of many sources of community health data. More than 150 health statistics have been analyzed and reported and the analysis of the health care system is underway. To complete the picture of community health, CHIP surveyed residents of target communities concerning their health care problems and needs. This report summarizes these survey data.

The Community Health Improvement Project

CHIP is a community-based effort directed by SCOPE (Sarasota County Openly Plans for Excellence) and a partnership of local hospitals and health departments, not-for profit agencies, the Gulf Coast Community Foundation of Venice and hundreds of community volunteers. The goals of CHIP are to assess community health needs and engage citizens in understanding and solving local health care problems. Modified “study groups” that have been used successfully by SCOPE to study other community issues were created in the CHIP target communities. These “Community Health Action Teams”, or CHATs, were formed to study local community issues and implement actions that will improve the health of their community. The CHAT areas include Englewood, North Port and the Laurel/Osprey/Venice and Nokomis, referred to as LOVN, communities. These CHATs have been active for nearly two years in this effort.

CHIP and the Household Survey

To supplement other CHIP assessment data with more qualitative information on community health needs, CHIP completed a survey of residents in the CHAT areas. The CHIP Household Survey was developed in the Spring of 2003, early in the CHAT formation period. The survey instrument was developed by CHAT members to capture data which would be useful to the CHATs in their health analysis and planning efforts. The goal was to survey a large enough sample of residents in each CHAT area to understand local community needs and differences.

These survey data have been reported to the CHATs and other community groups. This report is a published summary of key household survey data overall, by community and, where relevant or notable, by income or insurance status. These findings can be used by individuals and agencies in health care planning and to help secure funding for residents who are most in need of health care services. In addition, CHIP includes a strong monitoring component and intends to resurvey a subset of residents in subsequent years to measure changes in key health outcomes as a result of CHAT efforts. Ideally, the CHIP household survey will become a routine method of collecting and listening to community voices.

METHODS

Population-based surveying is an effective method of securing data from a target population with key geographic or demographic characteristics. The goal of the CHIP Household survey was to collect data from a cross-section of socially and economically representative households.

Instrument Development

As noted, the CHIP household survey was developed with guidance from CHAT members based on the information they needed for health planning efforts. Survey development and methodology were overseen by the CHIP Data Committee, while a committee of more than ten community volunteer from all three CHAT areas created and pilot-tested the survey instrument. Committee members identified the following topics to cover in the survey, which guided the development of survey questions: healthcare providers, availability and utilization; health status and health problems; barriers to health care services; transportation issues; health education and health promotion; social support; special health care needs or populations; key health care problems and solutions; and demographics.

Survey items were borrowed from several widely used and validated survey instruments, including the Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance Survey¹; the Medical Outcomes Study Social Support Survey² (subscale to measure physical functioning or Activities of Daily Living and selected single item question); and the National Survey on Health Care³ (health insurance and health care worry items). In addition, questions were used from instruments provided by Coastal Behavioral Health Care and from the East Gainesville Community Health Survey⁴. Once developed, the survey instrument was piloted by committee members and by SCOPE survey staff. Modifications were made to the length and language of the instrument based on this pilot testing and a final version was prepared. See the CHIP Website for the final instrument: www.scopexcel.org/CHIP/index.

Sampling

The sampling frame for this study was the communities included within the CHAT areas. These areas are defined by the following zip codes: **Englewood** – 33946, 33947, 34223, 34224; **North Port** – 34286, 34287, 34288, 34289; **LOVN** – 37275, 34229, 34292, 34293, 34285, 34272. The Venice 34293 zip code changed to 34285 after surveying had begun. Surveys from this zip code are classified within the original zip code, 34293. Some of the residents of the Laurel area (n=13) reported zip codes other than 34272 and are counted in these other zip codes.

A stratified, proportionate random sample of households in each of the CHAT areas was drawn for the survey with the goal of completing 300 interviews in each CHAT area. A proprietary listing of all households in the zip codes of interest was secured from a local direct mailing company. The figures provided were compared to U.S. Census figures to assure completeness of the population listing. The proportion of households in each zip code was calculated (see table below) to determine the proportion of the overall CHAT community was represented in each zip code (see column 3 in table). A random sample of household addresses was then selected from each zip code in the same proportion as that zip code represented overall. For example, households in the 33946 zip code in Englewood represent only 2.9% of all households in Englewood; therefore, 2.9% of the total survey sample was drawn from this zip code.

Approximately 900 addresses in each CHAT area were selected using this method to assure an adequate sample of households from which to complete 300 surveys. Due to the large number of “snowbirds” in the area, we estimated that 3 households were needed to assure one completed survey. The overall survey goal was to complete 900 surveys from a sample of 2,896 randomly sampled households.

¹ Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance Survey. [More details here.]

² Sherbourne, CD and Stewart, A.L. The MOS Social Support Survey, *Social Science and Medicine*, Vol. 32, No. 6, 1991, pp. 705-714.

³ National Survey on Health Care, National Public Radio, the Kaiser Family Foundation and the Kennedy School of Government, Harvard University, June, 2002.

⁴ Clarke, L.L., Cuddeback, J. and Smith, K. East Gainesville Community Health Survey, Department of Health Policy and Epidemiology, University of Florida, 1998.

The unit of analysis for the surveying was the household: one adult (18 or older) resident in each sampled household was interviewed. Introductory letters concerning the survey were first sent to each household. Interviewers followed-up with a phone call or visit to subjects who did not call in to complete the survey. Interviewers asked to talk with the household member with the greatest knowledge of the health care of the family.

The total number of completed surveys was 756, of which 22 were removed from the database due to duplicate addresses, incomplete surveys, or questionable response patterns. The final number of clean, usable surveys was 734. This is the sample analyzed for all overall analyses reported below. This number includes five surveys that had missing zip code data. These surveys were not included in the CHAT area analysis. The total number of surveys reported for the CHAT area analysis was 729: 175 from Englewood, 284 from North Port and 270 from LOVN.

Sampling Frame and Completed Surveys by CHAT Area and Zip Code

Community	Zip Codes	Number of Households	% of Community	Sample Size	Final Sample
Englewood	33946	569	2.9%	27	8
	33947	3307	17.9%	168	18
	34223	9408	40.0%	376	115
	34224	7615	39.2%	368	34
<i>Total CHAT area</i>			100%	939	175
North Port	34286	4664	26%	248	100
	34287	10300	65%	626	166
	34288	1170	7.7%	74	14
	34289	209	<u>1.3%</u>	<u>12</u>	4
<i>Total CHAT area</i>			100%	960	284
LOVN	34275	2914	18%	175	56
	34229	7672	7%	68	18
	34292	4322	32%	324	62
	34293	10691	33%	338	98
	34285	15427	10%	92	36
<i>Total CHAT area</i>			100%	997	270
TOTAL All CHATs	-	78,268	100%	2896	729
<i>Surveys with missing zip code</i>					5
TOTAL SAMPLE					734

Note: In the LOVN area, the 34272 zip code does not represent a defined geographic area, but it is a post office with post office boxes that many residents of Laurel use as their mailing address. The physical residence of those who use this post office are not necessarily included in any other zip code; therefore, targeted sampling was used in this area to assure representation of these residents.

Data Collection and Analysis

To overcome limitations of telephone surveying including the inability to reach residents who are without phone service, the CHIP survey involved both phone and door-to-door subject contact. An introductory letter seeking participation and assuring participant anonymity was sent to all households in the original sample (N=2896). Two interviewing options were offered: subjects could call in and complete their interview by phone, or they

could be interviewed in person. As an incentive to improve participation, a \$5 grocery certificate from Publix, was offered to participants. The incentive amount was varied throughout the survey process to increase participation. Increased incentives boosted participation but reduced the total number of surveys completed due to budget constraints.

Interviewers & Training

More than 20 staff were hired and trained as interviewers. Of the total hired, 10 interviewers sustained their involvement for the majority of the survey period. Interviewers were trained for two days and completed initial phone and household interviews while under observation. Women worked in teams in the field whenever possible.

Interviewers were given a list of households to contact in a given zip code. They could call the household or complete the survey in person. Interviewers were paid by the completed survey, with higher pay for door-to-door survey than a phone survey. The work required commitment and an ability to endure frequent phone refusals and high rates of residents not at home or unwilling to participate.

Attaining project goals was prevented due to time and staff constraints and the large proportion of households with residents in other states or otherwise unavailable and other challenges inherent in door-to-door surveying, interviewing. Rates of pay for interviewers were increased in latter months, with incentive bonuses provided to the highest performers. Both staff incentives increased completion rates. The surveying was ended in October 2003 to allow for data entry, cleaning and analysis.

Sample Replacement

After contact saturation of sampled houses, if an interviewer determined that a listed household appeared to be vacant, interviewers were directed to select the next nearest house as a replacement. This and the over-sampling of Ukrainians and African Americans altered the original random sample enough to make the calculation of statistical test of association inappropriate. Nevertheless, the sample sizes, validity checks and reliability of the data are robust enough to place confidence in the survey trends both within and across communities.

Data Management

Survey management staff reviewed all the surveys for completeness. Verification checks were also completed. Office staff and the project manager contacted a random sample of completed interviews by phone to assure survey completion. A Microsoft Access database was created for data entry and management of the household survey data. All surveys were entered and verified. After the surveys were entered, the data were cleaned for out-of-range entries, duplicate surveys, and other data errors. Twenty-two surveys were rejected or removed due to one of these errors.

Analysis

Analysis of the data was completed using SAS 8.02 Statistical software (SAS Institute, Cary, NC). Frequencies and cross-tabulations were run to examine data overall, by CHAT region, by zip code, and by key demographic variables.

RESPONDENT CHARACTERISTICS

The demographic characteristics of a community significantly shape the community's profiles of health behaviors, disease rates and major causes of death. For this reason, a community's characteristics are central to understanding their health care issues and needs.

Household Size

Overall, women made up the bulk of respondents, accounting for 68.8% of the total number surveyed. In terms of household size, most households sampled were small. Nearly 65% had 2 or fewer members. Another 25% had 3 to 4 members. Fewer than 11% of households had more than 4 family members.

How many people live in this household?

	FREQUENCY	PERCENT
1	93	14.2
2	331	50.6
3	101	15.4
4	62	9.5
More than 4	67	10.4
Missing	75	.



Marital Status

Sixty-three percent of these respondents were married. Nearly 3 in 10 (27.8%) were divorced, widowed, or separated. Approximately 8% had never been married. North Port respondents were the most likely to be married (68.9%) and least likely to be widowed (8.8%). These proportions reflect the lower average age of North Port residents as compared to Englewood and LOVN residents (see SCOPE's *People Count* report for detailed demographics on residents of Sarasota County).

What is your marital status?

	FREQUENCY	PERCENT
Married	462	63.7
Divorced	87	12.1
Widowed	103	14.2
Separated	11	1.5
Never married	58	8.0
Refused	4	0.6
Missing	4	.

Marital Status by CHAT Area

	Englewood		North Port		LOVN	
	FREQUENCY	PERCENT	FREQUENCY	PERCENT	FREQUENCY	PERCENT
Married	105	60.3	195	68.9	162	60.4
Divorced	22	12.6	30	10.6	35	13.1
Widowed	27	15.5	25	8.8	51	19
Separated	4	2.3	4	1.4	3	1.1
Never married	16	9.2	26	9.2	16	6
Total	174	100	283	100	268	100
Missing	2	.	1	.	1	.

Race/Ethnicity

Reflecting the limited ethnic diversity of the region, 86.9% of this sample was white, 7.9% were black, Native American and Asian were 0.5% each, and the remainder (3%) categorized themselves “other”. A larger proportion of respondents in Englewood than in the other CHAT areas were white (96.6% compared to approximately 85%). The LOVN CHAT area had the highest proportion of black respondents (13.6%) while North Port had the largest percentage of respondents of “other” race (5.4%).

What would you say your race is?

	FREQUENCY	PERCENT
White	638	86.9
Black	58	7.9
Asian	4	0.5
Native American / Native Alaskan	4	0.5
Other	22	3
Don't know / Refused	8	1.1

Race by CHAT Area

	Englewood		North Port		LOVN	
	FREQUENCY	PERCENT	FREQUENCY	PERCENT	FREQUENCY	PERCENT
White	168	96.6	238	85.6	227	85.7
Black	1	0.6	21	7.6	36	13.6
Native American / Native Alaskan	1	0.6	4	1.4	0	0
Asian	0	0	3	1.1	0	0
Other	5	2.9	15	5.4	2	0.8
Don't Know/ Refused	0	0	6	2.2	2	0.8
Total	175	100.6	287	103.3	267	100.8
Missing	2	.	6	.	4	.

Note: Totals may exceed 100% due to the fact that some respondents reported more than one race.

Consistent with Sarasota demographics, 4.1% of the sample was Hispanic. Data by CHAT area shows that 4.5% of respondents in Englewood and 5.7% of North Port respondents are Hispanic compared to only 2.2% in the LOVN communities.

Are you Hispanic?

	FREQUENCY	PERCENT
Yes	30	4.1
No	697	95.2
Refused	5	0.7

Are you Hispanic? By CHAT Area

	Englewood		North Port		LOVN	
	FREQUENCY	PERCENT	FREQUENCY	PERCENT	FREQUENCY	PERCENT
Yes	8	4.5	16	5.7	6	2.2
No	168	95.5	262	92.6	262	97.8
Refused	0	0	5	1.8	0	0
Total	176	100	283	100	268	100
Missing	0	.	1	.	1	.

Language Spoken at Home

A small proportion of respondents (1.8%) reported that Spanish was the primary language spoken at home. A nearly equal proportion of respondents (1.6%) reported that Ukrainian was the primary language spoken at home. Respondents from North Port were most likely to speak a language other than English (14.5%), primarily Ukrainian (4.5%), Spanish (3.6%) and other (6.4%).

What is the primary language spoken in your home?

	FREQUENCY	PERCENT
English	687	93.9
Spanish	13	1.8
Ukrainian	12	1.6
Other	20	2.7

Primary language by CHAT Area

	Englewood		North Port		LOVN	
	FREQUENCY	PERCENT	FREQUENCY	PERCENT	FREQUENCY	PERCENT
English	173	98.9	242	85.8	267	98.9
Spanish	2	1.1	10	3.6	1	0.4
Ukrainian	.	.	12	4.5	.	.
Other	.	.	18	6.4	2	0.7
Total	175	100	282	100	270	100
Missing	0	.	2	.	0	.

Country of Origin

A substantial minority of residents were foreign born. More than 1 in 10 of these respondents were born in a country other than the U.S. including the Ukraine (2.9%) and Mexico (0.7%). With the exception of North Port residents, less than 5% of respondents were born in another country while nearly 20% of North Port respondents were born in another country.

In what country were you born?

	FREQUENCY	PERCENT
US	656	89.6
Mexico	5	0.7
Ukraine	21	2.9
Other	50	6.8

Country of Origin by CHAT

	Englewood		North Port		LOVN		OVERALL	
	FREQUENCY	PERCENT	FREQUENCY	PERCENT	FREQUENCY	PERCENT	FREQUENCY	PERCENT
US	168	95.5	227	80.5	256	95.2	651	89.5
Mexico	0	0	5	1.8	0	0	5	0.7
Ukraine	0	0	21	7.4	0	0	21	2.8
Other	8	4.5	29	10.3	13	4.8	50	6.9
Total	176	100	282	100	269	100	727	100
Missing	0	.	2	.	0	.	2	.

Education

The following tables describe educational, income, and home ownership characteristics of the survey respondents. The majority of respondents were either high school graduates (36.3%) or had completed some college (28.5%). Nearly 10% had not completed high school. A smaller proportion (7.2%) had attained a degree beyond the bachelor's degree.

LOVN CHAT respondents were most likely to be without a high school degree (10.9%), but only slightly more than North Port (9.2%) or Englewood respondents (7.4%). Respondents in the LOVN communities were also most likely to have a bachelor's degree or higher (30.8% as compared to 21.0% in Englewood and 18.4% in North Port).

What is the highest grade or year of school you completed?

	FREQUENCY	PERCENT
Less than 12th	68	9.4
12th grade or GED	263	36.3
1-3 years college	207	28.6
4 years college / Bachelor's degree	119	16.4
Master's degree or higher	52	7.2
Other	11	1.5
Refused	5	0.7

Highest grade or year of school completed by CHAT Area

	Englewood		North Port		LOVN	
	FREQUENCY	PERCENT	FREQUENCY	PERCENT	FREQUENCY	PERCENT
Less than 12th	13	7.4	26	9.2	29	10.9
12th Grade or GED	59	33.5	119	42.0	85	32.0
1-3 years college	64	36.6	84	29.9	59	22.1
4 years college / Bachelor's degree	28	15.9	41	14.5	50	18.8
Master's degree or higher	9	5.1	11	3.9	32	12.0
Refused	0	0	2	0.7	8	3.0
Other	3	1.7	0	0	3	1.1
Total	176	100	283	100	266	100
Missing	0	.	1	.	3	.

Employment

Respondents in the labor force (44.9%) only slightly outnumbered retirees (40.8%). The remaining respondents classified themselves as homemakers (10.1%), disabled (4.5%), students (2.1%), or unemployed (3.8%). North Port respondents were most likely to be employed for wages (44.2%, compared to 30% in Englewood and 27% in LOVN). Majority of LOVN respondents were retired (53% compared to 44% in Englewood and 27% in North Port). A larger proportion of Englewood residents were self-employed (13.7%) compared to 8% in North Port and 10% in LOVN.



Current Employment Status

	FREQUENCY	PERCENT
Retired	298	40.8
Employed for Wages	252	34.5
Self-Employed	76	10.4
Homemaker	74	10.1
Unable to Work	33	4.5
Out of Work for < 1 year	16	2.2
Student	15	2.1
Out of Work >1 year	12	1.6
Refused	6	0.8

Current Employment Status by CHAT Area

	Englewood		North Port		LOVN	
	FREQUENCY	PERCENT	FREQUENCY	PERCENT	FREQUENCY	PERCENT
Employed for Wages	54	30.9	125	44.2	72	27
Self-Employed	24	13.7	23	8.1	27	10.1
Out of Work <1 year	3	1.7	8	2.8	1	0.4
Out of Work > 1 year	3	1.7	9	3.2	4	1.5
Homemaker	20	11.4	32	11.3	22	8.2
Student	5	2.9	7	2.5	3	1.1
Retired	78	44.6	77	27.2	142	53.2
Refused	0	0	15	5.3	11	4.1
Unable to Work	4	2.3	2	0.7	4	1.5
Total	191	109.2	298	105.3	286	107.1
Missing	0	.	1	.	.	.

Note: Totals may exceed 100% due to the fact that some respondents reported more employment category.

Home Ownership

Majority (81.4%) of respondents owned their own home while 16.1% rented their home. There was little difference observed in home ownership across the communities.

Do you own or rent your home?

	FREQUENCY	PERCENT
Own	592	81.4
Rent	117	16.1
Other	18	2.5

Own or rent by CHAT Area

	Englewood		North Port		LOVN	
	FREQUENCY	PERCENT	FREQUENCY	PERCENT	FREQUENCY	PERCENT
Own	144	82.3	225	80.6	220	82.1
Rent	24	13.7	47	16.8	44	16.4
Other	7	4	7	2.5	4	1.5
Total	175	100	279	100	268	100
Missing	1	.	5	.	0	.

Household Income

Individual and community income levels are consistently associated with key population outcomes. Whether operating to influence health through access to material resources or health care, income shapes health. Respondents in this study were almost equally divided into 3 income categories: \$0-\$25,000 (31.1%), \$25,000-\$45,000 (32.7%), and greater than \$45,000 (36.2%). Income levels were fairly consistently distributed across the CHAT areas also.

North Port residents were least likely to be in the lowest income category (11.6% compared to 16.4% in LOVN and 15% in Englewood), but more likely to concentrate in the lower half of the income distribution than the other residents. LOVN respondents were more likely to be in the upper income categories (17.7% in the \$65,000+ levels, compared to 16.3% in Englewood and 14.7% in North Port).

In which category does your household income fall?

	FREQUENCY	PERCENT
\$0 - 15,000	91	14.3
\$15,000 - 25,000	107	16.8
\$25,000 - 35,000	107	16.8
\$35,000 - 45,000	101	15.9
\$45,000 - 55,000	77	12.1
\$55,000 - 65,000	50	7.9
\$65,000 - 75,000	46	7.2
More than \$75,000	57	9.0

Household income by CHAT Area

	Englewood		North Port		LOVN	
	FREQUENCY	PERCENT	FREQUENCY	PERCENT	FREQUENCY	PERCENT
\$0-\$15,000	22	15.0	30	11.6	37	16.4
\$15000-\$25,000	23	15.6	44	17.0	40	17.7
\$25000-\$35,000	18	12.2	46	17.8	42	18.6
\$35000-\$45,000	26	17.7	49	18.9	26	11.5
\$45000-\$55,000	15	10.2	31	12.0	31	13.7
\$55000-\$65,000	19	12.9	21	8.1	10	4.4
\$65000-\$75,000	16	10.9	16	6.2	13	5.8
More then \$75,000	8	5.4	22	8.5	27	11.9
Total	147	100	259	100	226	100
Missing	29	.	25	.	43	.

ACCESS TO HEALTH CARE

Access to care is determined by a variety of factors, including health insurance coverage, distance to providers transportation and financial resources for medications. The following data summarize key measures of access to health care across the communities surveyed.

Health Insurance

Consistent with state trends in health insurance coverage, approximately 16% of all respondents in this sample have no health insurance. One third of this group recently lost their insurance coverage. Non-white residents are more likely to be uninsured (18.9%) than are white residents (15.2%). Smaller proportions of LOVN (11%) and Englewood (15%) respondents report not having health insurance while more than 22% of respondents in North Port report not having health insurance. Of those respondents with no health insurance, nearly 50% of Englewood respondents reported recently losing their insurance, as did 32% of North Port and 27% of LOVN respondents.

Do you have any kind of health insurance?

	FREQUENCY	PERCENT
Yes	598	83.6
No	117	16.4

Health insurance by Race

	WHITE (%)	BLACK (%)
Yes	84.9	81.1
No	15.2	18.9

Any health insurance by CHAT Area

	Englewood		North Port		LOVN	
	FREQUENCY	PERCENT	FREQUENCY	PERCENT	FREQUENCY	PERCENT
Yes	145	84.8	216	77.7	232	88.9
No	26	15.2	62	22.3	29	11.1
Total	171	100	278	100	261	100
Missing	5	.	6	.	8	.

If no, did you recently lose insurance coverage?

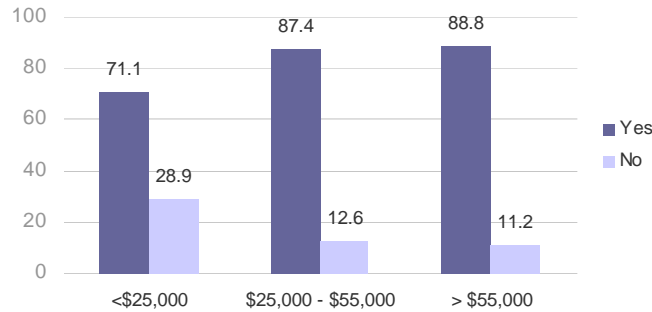
	FREQUENCY	PERCENT
Yes	34	34.0
No	66	66.0

Recent loss of insurance coverage by CHAT Area

	Englewood		North Port		LOVN	
	FREQUENCY	PERCENT	FREQUENCY	PERCENT	FREQUENCY	PERCENT
Yes	10	47.6	17	32.1	7	26.9
No	11	52.4	33	62.3	16	61.5
Don't Know / Not Sure	0	0	3	5.7	3	11.5
Total	21	100	53	100	26	100
Missing	155	.	231	.	243	.

Lower-income respondents were substantially less likely to have any kind of health insurance than upper income residents. In households with incomes of less than \$25,000 per year nearly 30% of respondents were not covered by insurance. This figure is just over 10% in higher income households.

Do you have any kind of health insurance?



Types of Health Insurance

Health insurance is provided by employers for only slightly more than one-third (36.7%) of those with insurance coverage. An additional 37.2% are covered by Medicare. The remainder is covered by either insurance that respondents purchased themselves (11.4%), Medicaid (5%), CHAMPUS (1.3%), or some other type of insurance (7.3%).

What kind of insurance do you have?

	FREQUENCY	PERCENT
Medicare	229	37.2
Private, employer paid or shared cost	226	36.7
Private / Self-Pay	70	11.4
Medicaid / Medipass	31	5.0
CHAMPUS/Tricare	8	1.3
Don't know	6	1.0
Other	45	7.3



Type of Insurance coverage by CHAT

	Englewood		North Port		LOVN	
	FREQUENCY	PERCENT	FREQUENCY	PERCENT	FREQUENCY	PERCENT
Medicare	49	33.1	71	31.7	107	45.0
Medicaid/Medipass	4	2.7	15	6.7	11	4.6
Private, Self-Pay	22	14.9	18	8.0	29	12.2
Private, Employer paid or shared cost	62	41.9	92	41.1	71	29.8
CHAMPUS/Tricare	4	2.7	.	.	4	1.7
Don't Know/Other	7	4.7	28	12.5	16	6.7
All	148	100.0	224	100.0	238	100.0
Missing	27	15.4	60	21.1	32	11.9

Respondents in this survey pay an average of \$154 per month for their health insurance premium; however, 25% of respondents pay more than \$225 and 5% pay more than \$500 per month.

For a better understanding about individuals who are not covered and the reasons why, respondents with no health insurance were asked if they were able to get health insurance but chose not to purchase it. Of those who do not have health insurance, 55.7% reported that it is available but they choose not to purchase it. The data by CHAT area varies a little with 56.0% of respondents in Englewood, 56.3% in LOVN and 61.7% in North Port reporting they choose not to purchase health insurance.

Are you able to get health insurance but choose not to purchase it?

	FREQUENCY	PERCENT
Yes	78.0	55.7
No	54.0	38.6
Don't know/Refused	8.0	5.7

Able to get insurance but chose not to by CHAT Area

	Englewood		North Port		LOVN	
	FREQUENCY	PERCENT	FREQUENCY	PERCENT	FREQUENCY	PERCENT
Yes	14	56.0	37	61.7	18	56.3
No	11	44.0	18	30.0	13	40.6
Don't know / Refused	0	0.0	5	8.3	1	3.1
Total	25	100	60	100	32	100
Missing	151	.	224	.	237	.

For most of those who chose not to purchase insurance, this choice was a matter of affordability – nearly 80% reported that they could not afford the premium of available policies. Affordability was the chief concern regardless of income. Only 9.0% reported that they do not want to purchase it. The proportions of those who reported that they could not afford the premium were 77% in Englewood, 82% in North Port and 73% in LOVN.

Why don't you purchase this health insurance?

	FREQUENCY	PERCENT
Cannot afford premium	70	79.1
Do not want to	7	9.0
Don't know	6	4.5
Other	12	7.5

Why don't you purchase this health insurance? By CHAT Area

	Englewood		North Port		LOVN	
	FREQUENCY	PERCENT	FREQUENCY	PERCENT	FREQUENCY	PERCENT
Cannot afford premium	10	76.9	32	82.1	11	73.3
Do not want to	1	7.7	3	7.7	2	13.3
Don't know	1	7.7	1	2.6	1	6.7
Other	1	7.7	3	7.7	1	6.7
Total	13	100	39	100	15	100
Missing	163	.	245	.	254	.

Health Insurance for Family Members

For a substantial minority of the insured respondents (24.5%) health insurance coverage does not extend to the entire family. More than 22% of respondents in Englewood and 25% of respondents in North Port and LOVN had individual policies that did not cover family members.

Are all of your family members covered under your health insurance?

	FREQUENCY	PERCENT
Yes, all family members	426	70.4
No, individual only	148	24.5
Individual and some, not all, family members	18	3.0
Don't know/refused	13	2.1

Health insurance coverage for entire family by CHAT Area

	Englewood		North Port		LOVN	
	FREQUENCY	PERCENT	FREQUENCY	PERCENT	FREQUENCY	PERCENT
Yes, all family members or individual only	111	76	152	67.6	158	69
No, individual only	33	22.6	57	25.3	58	25.3
Individual and some, not all, family members	2	1.4	7	3.1	9	3.9
Don't know/refused	0	0.0	9	4.0	4	1.7
Total	146	100	225	100	229	100
Missing	30	.	59	.	40	.

The majority of family members (67%) not covered by the main policy are covered under another policy; however, this figure varies by community. Among those individuals whose policies did not cover family members, between 24% and 31% of those family members went without insurance coverage.

If some or none of your other family members are not covered, do you have other insurance for family members?

	FREQUENCY	PERCENT
Yes	65	67.0
No	27	27.8
Don't Know / Refused	5	5.1

Other insurance coverage for family members, by CHAT Area

	Englewood		North Port		LOVN	
	FREQUENCY	PERCENT	FREQUENCY	PERCENT	FREQUENCY	PERCENT
Yes	11	73.3	28	63.6	25	67.6
No	4	26.7	14	31.8	9	24.3
Don't know / Refused	0	0	2	4.6	3	8.1
Total	15	100	44	100	37	100
Missing	161	.	240	.	232	.

Supplemental and Long-Term Care Insurance

The survey asked respondents about supplemental health insurance policies that may cover cancer or other specialized treatment for example. Forty percent of respondents have some type of supplemental insurance. The proportion of respondents who have supplemental health insurance ranges from 26% in North Port to 51% in Englewood. In addition, between 12.7% and 16.2% of respondents reported having long-term care insurance.

Do you have supplemental health insurance?

	FREQUENCY	PERCENT
Yes	251	40.7
No	351	56.9
Don't know / Refused	15	2.5

Supplemental health insurance by CHAT Area

	Englewood		North Port		LOVN	
	FREQUENCY	PERCENT	FREQUENCY	PERCENT	FREQUENCY	PERCENT
Yes	76	51.4	60	26.3	113	47.9
No	72	48.6	157	68.9	119	50.4
Don't know / Refused	0	0	11	4.8	4	1.7
Total	148	100	228	100	236	100
Missing	28	.	56	.	33	.

Long-term care insurance is held by slightly more than 14% of respondents overall. By CHAT area, this number ranged from 12.7% in North Port to 16.2% in LOVN.

Do you have long-term care insurance?

	FREQUENCY	PERCENT
Yes	90	14.6
No	510	82.5
Don't know / Refused	18	3.0



Long-term care insurance by CHAT Area

	Englewood		North Port		LOVN	
	FREQUENCY	PERCENT	FREQUENCY	PERCENT	FREQUENCY	PERCENT
Yes	22	14.8	29	12.7	38	16.2
No	127	85.2	189	82.5	190	80.9
Don't know / Refused	0	0	11	4.8	7	3
Total	149	100	229	100	235	100
Missing	27	.	55	.	34	.

Seeking Medical Care & Treatment

In addition to health insurance, a variety of factors affect consumers' access to and use of health care providers. These include economic reasons, as well as beliefs about care, distance to care, and knowledge of available services. The following section summarizes patterns of health care seeking and use among survey respondents.



Attachment to a primary care provider is significantly correlated with health care utilization behavior. These survey data show that nearly 85% of the respondents in this sample have one or more providers they consider to be their primary provider, while more than 1 in 7 people surveyed have no primary care provider. Health insurance and having a regular provider go hand in hand. Fewer than 1 in 10 of those with insurance (9.3%) say they do not have a primary care physician, while nearly 1 in 2 (45.7%) of those without insurance report the same.

The data by CHAT area show that more than 18% of North Port respondents do not have a primary care provider compared to 12.6% in Englewood and 14.6% in LOVN. These respondents may be more likely to use a hospital emergency department or walk-in clinic when they are sick. When asked how many minutes it takes to get to their provider's office, between 61 and 62% of Englewood and LOVN community respondents were within 15 minutes of their primary care provider, while only 39% of North Port respondents were within 15 minutes.

Do you have one person/clinic you think of as your primary care doctor? by Insurance Coverage

	HEALTH INSURANCE		NO HEALTH INSURANCE		TOTAL	
	FREQUENCY	PERCENT	FREQUENCY	PERCENT	FREQUENCY	PERCENT
Yes, only one	472	80.1	54	46.6	538	74.0
Yes, more than one	62	10.5	9	7.8	77	10.6
No	55	9.3	53	45.7	112	15.4

Attachment to a primary care doctor by CHAT Area

	Englewood		North Port		LOVN	
	FREQUENCY	PERCENT	FREQUENCY	PERCENT	FREQUENCY	PERCENT
Yes, only one	136	78.2	199	70.8	200	74.9
Yes, more than one	16	9.2	31	11	28	10.5
No	22	12.6	51	18.1	39	14.6
Total	174	100	281	100	267	100
Missing	.	.	3	.	2	.

Reasons for not having a Regular Provider

Of those who do not have a regular provider, more than half (51.9%) have no medical insurance or cannot afford care. An additional 9.3% do not use doctors. The remainder gave other reasons for their lack of a primary care provider including the inability to find a doctor they like or a recent move. The data by CHAT area show that the most common reason for not having a primary care provider was no health insurance: 44% in Englewood and North Port and 24% in LOVN. Nine to seventeen percent of respondents reported that they could not afford primary care; 5 % to 18% do not use doctors; and a larger group reported "other reasons" (16 % to 27%).

Is there a reason you don't have a regular provider?

	FREQUENCY	PERCENT
No insurance	41	38.0
Can't afford regular care	15	13.9
Don't use doctors	10	9.3
Don't like local doctors	3	2.8
Live elsewhere	3	2.8
Don't know	9	8.3
Other	27	25.0

Reason for not having a primary care provider by CHAT Area

	Englewood		North Port		LOVN	
	FREQUENCY	PERCENT	FREQUENCY	PERCENT	FREQUENCY	PERCENT
No insurance	8	44.4	25	43.9	8	24.2
Can't afford regular care	2	11.1	10	17.5	3	9.1
Live elsewhere	2	11.1	2	11.1	1	3
Don't like local doctors	0	0	1	1.8	0	0
Don't use doctors	1	5.6	3	5.3	6	18.2
Don't know	2	11.1	3	5.3	4	12.1
Other	3	16.7	15	26.3	9	27.3
Total	18	100	57	100	33	100
Missing	158	.	227	.	236	.

Distance to Provider's Office

Another factor affecting health care utilization is the distance to a provider's office and transportation availability. We asked those respondents who had a health care provider how long it takes them to get to their provider's office, and how do they get there. About half of those with a primary care provider are within 15 minutes travel time from their provider's office. Slightly more than 10% of respondents travel more than 30 minutes to reach their provider's office. Looking at those within 30 minutes of their provider's office, the communities look more alike with 80-85% of North Port and Englewood respondents and 90% of LOVN residents reporting this distance.

How many minutes does it take you to get to this provider's office?

	FREQUENCY	PERCENT
Less than 15	321	53.9
Between 15 and 30	193	32.4
Between 30 and 45	51	8.6
More than 45 minutes	24	4.0
Don't know	7	1.2

Distance (in minutes) to provider's office by CHAT Area

	Englewood		North Port		LOVN	
	FREQUENCY	PERCENT	FREQUENCY	PERCENT	FREQUENCY	PERCENT
Less than 15	93	62.8	85	39.4	141	61.6
Between 15 and 30	34	23	91	42.1	67	29.3
Between 30 and 45	13	8.8	26	12	12	5.2
More than 45 minutes	7	4.7	12	5.6	5	2.2
Don't know	1	0.7	2	0.9	4	1.7
Total	148	100	216	100	229	100
Missing	28	.	68	.	40	.

Transportation to Provider's Office

To assess transportation needs, we asked respondents how they get to their provider's office. The majority of respondents in all the CHAT communities (88%-94%) drive themselves to their primary care provider. Between 4% and 7% rely on a family member to drive them, and between 1.5% and 4% rely on other means of transportation. Less than 1% of respondents used the bus or a cab to get to their primary care provider.

How do you get to your providers office?

	FREQUENCY	PERCENT
Drive myself	513	89.84
Family member drives me	35	6.13
Take a bus	2	0.35
Take a cab	3	0.53
Walk	2	0.35
Don't know	2	0.35
Other	14	2.45



How do you get to this provider's office? By CHAT Area

	Englewood		North Port		LOVN	
	FREQUENCY	PERCENT	FREQUENCY	PERCENT	FREQUENCY	PERCENT
Drive myself	131	93.6	191	88.8	191	88.4
Family member drives me	6	4.3	13	6	16	7.4
Bus	0	0	0	0	2	0.9
Cab	1	0.7	2	0.9	0	0
Walk	0	0	0	0	2	0.9
Don't know	0	0	1	0.5	1	0.5
Other	2	1.4	8	3.7	4	1.9
Total	140	100	215	100	216	100
Missing	36	.	69	.	53	.

The Uninsured and Medical Care Access

More than 40% of those without health insurance report they would go to the emergency room if they needed medical care; 25.4% would go to a doctor's office, and 15.3% would use a public health clinic or community health center. Nearly 7% did not know what they would do if they needed medical care. The data by CHAT area show that 55.6% of Englewood respondents, 35% of North Port respondents, and 47.5% of LOVN respondents reported that they would use a hospital emergency room for medical care. Another 11-15% reported that they would use a public clinic. Another group of respondents reported that they would use a private doctor's office: 5.6% in Englewood, 30% in North Port, and 27.5% in LOVN. Others reported that they would use some "other place," have no usual source, or they didn't know where they would go.

Among those without health insurance, where would you go if you needed medical care?

	FREQUENCY	PERCENT
Emergency department	50	42.4
Dr's office/private clinic	30	25.4
Public clinic/community health center	18	15.3
Hospital outpatient dept	3	2.5
Urgent care center	1	0.8
Other	6	5.1
No usual place	2	1.7
Don't know / Refused	8	6.7

Among uninsured, where would you go if you needed medical care by CHAT Area

	Englewood		North Port		LOVN	
	FREQUENCY	PERCENT	FREQUENCY	PERCENT	FREQUENCY	PERCENT
Dr's office/private clinic	1	5.6	18	30	11	27.5
Public clinic/community health center	2	11.1	10	16.7	6	15
Hospital outpatient dept	1	5.6	1	1.7	1	2.5
Emergency Room	10	55.6	21	35	19	47.5
Urgent care center	0	0	0	0	1	2.5
Other	1	5.6	4	6.7	1	2.5
No usual place	1	5.6	1	1.7	0	0
Don't know	2	11.1	4	6.7	0	0
Refused	0	0	1	1.7	1	2.5
Total	18	100	60	100	40	100
Missing	158	.	224	.	229	.

Unmet Medical Care Need

Nearly 1 in 10 respondents (8.7%) reported that they needed healthcare in the past year and could not get it. Respondents without health insurance were significantly more likely to be unable to get care (24.4%) than those respondents with health insurance (5.6%).

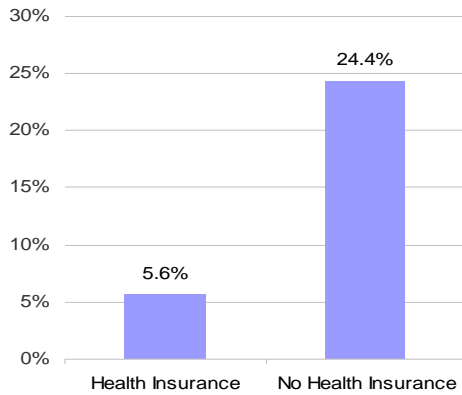
Was there a time in the past 12 months when you needed medical care but could not get it?

	FREQUENCY	PERCENT
Yes	63	8.7
No	657	90.6
Don't know / Refused	5	0.7

Unable to get care by CHAT Area

	Englewood		North Port		LOVN	
	FREQUENCY	PERCENT	FREQUENCY	PERCENT	FREQUENCY	PERCENT
Yes	16	9.3	32	11.5	14	5.2
No	157	90.8	245	87.8	251	93.7
Don't know/Refused	.	.	2	0.7	3	1.1
All	173	100.0	279	100.0	268	100.0
Missing	2	.	5	.	2	.

Unable to get needed care in last year, by insurance status



Lack of health insurance was most frequently reported as the reason for not obtaining needed medical care. However, having health insurance didn't eliminate cost as a barrier to care for participants in this sample. The high cost of deductibles and co-payments were cited by an additional 5% of respondents as barriers to care. For nearly 11% of those who could not get needed care, it was because they could not find a provider who would see them. Lastly, transportation problems kept 7.6% of respondents from getting the care they needed.

Why could you not get medical care for this problem?

	FREQUENCY	PERCENT
No provider would take me	7	10.6
No health insurance	30	45.5
Cost of copay/deductible	3	4.5
Office wasn't open when I could get there	1	1.5
Wait for appt too long	1	1.5
No transportation	5	7.7
Other	15	22.7
Don't know / Refused	4	6.0

Why could you not get care by CHAT Area

	Englewood		North Port		LOVN	
	FREQUENCY	PERCENT	FREQUENCY	PERCENT	FREQUENCY	PERCENT
Did not have a provider that would take me	4	25.0	2	5.4	1	8.3
No health insurance	7	43.8	19	51.3	4	33.3
Cost of co-pay or deductible	.	.	2	5.4	1	8.3
Office wasn't open when I could get in	.	.	.	.	1	8.3
Too long a wait for an appt	.	.	1	2.7	.	.
No transportation	.	.	2	5.4	3	25.0
Other	5	31.3	7	18.9	2	16.7
Don't know / Refused	.	.	5	10.8	.	.
All	16	100.0	37	100.0	12	100.0
Missing	159	.	247	.	258	.

Unmet Need for the Seriously Ill Who are Uninsured

The consequences of not having health insurance are more serious for those who are chronically ill than for those who are healthy. Nearly 1 in 5 respondents (18.5%) reported that they went without medical treatment for a serious illness primarily because they lacked health insurance. These illnesses included: pneumonia, cancer, hepatitis C, and diabetes. The data by CHAT area show that residents in Englewood are more likely to report lack of access (28%) compared to 17.7% in North Port and 12.5% in the LOVN area.

Have you ever had a serious illness that went untreated because you had no insurance?

	FREQUENCY	PERCENT
Yes	22	18.5
No	93	78.2
Don't know / Refused	4	3.4

Among those with no insurance, Have you ever had an untreated serious illness due to lack of insurance by CHAT Area

	Englewood		North Port		LOVN	
	FREQUENCY	PERCENT	FREQUENCY	PERCENT	FREQUENCY	PERCENT
Yes	7	28	11	17.7	4	12.5
No	17	68	49	79	27	84.4
Don't know / Refused	1	4	2	3.2	1	3.1
Total	25	100	62	100	32	100
Missing	151	.	222	.	237	.

Knowledge of Free or Reduced Fee Clinics

An important source of health care for the uninsured is local clinics that are state or federally subsidized to serve underserved populations. An overwhelming majority of the uninsured that answered this survey (78.8%) had no knowledge of local free clinics.

Among the uninsured, do you know of any clinics that treat people who do not have health insurance or the money to pay for health care?

	FREQUENCY	PERCENT
Yes	25	21.2
No	93	78.8

Among the uninsured, Knowledge of clinics that provide free care by CHAT Area

	Englewood		North Port		LOVN	
	FREQUENCY	PERCENT	FREQUENCY	PERCENT	FREQUENCY	PERCENT
Yes	9	25.7	12	14.6	13	28.3
No	26	74.3	70	85.4	33	71.7
All	35	100.0	82	100.0	46	100.0
Missing	140	.	202	.	224	.

Prescription Medication Access

A related barrier to health care for those who are uninsured is the inability to purchase medications. One in five respondents has gone without medications because they cannot afford them. This is far more likely among the uninsured than among the insured - while 43.0% of uninsured respondents report going without medications, this proportion was only 16.3% among those who were insured.

Respondents were asked if they ever had to go without medications because they could not afford them. Positive responses (i.e., yes responses) ranged from 16.6% in Englewood, to 29.4% in North Port and LOVN.

Have you ever had to go without medications because you could not afford them? by Insurance Coverage

	HEALTH INSURANCE		NO HEALTH INSURANCE		TOTAL	
	FREQUENCY	PERCENT	FREQUENCY	PERCENT	FREQUENCY	PERCENT
Yes	96	16.3	49	43.0	153	20.9

Have you ever had to go without medications because you could not afford them? By CHAT Area

	Englewood		North Port		LOVN	
	FREQUENCY	PERCENT	FREQUENCY	PERCENT	FREQUENCY	PERCENT
Yes	29	16.6	83	29.4	83	29.4
No	146	83.4	199	70.6	199	70.6
Total	175	100	282	100	282	100
Missing	1	.	2	.	2	.

Using Other People’s Medications

Many respondents report that they have used other people’s prescriptions, primarily for reasons of convenience. More than 1 in 10 respondents (11.1%) admitted taking medication prescribed for someone else. The most frequent explanation was that it was needed and available. Cost savings was also a factor. People without health insurance are more likely to say they used prescription medicine not prescribed to them (17.9%) compared to 9.6% of those who have health insurance. When asked if they ever had to use someone else’s medications, more than 13% in Englewood, 10.7% in North Port, and 10% in LOVN reported yes.

Have you ever used someone else's medication?

	HEALTH INSURANCE		NO HEALTH INSURANCE		TOTAL	
	FREQUENCY	PERCENT	FREQUENCY	PERCENT	FREQUENCY	PERCENT
Yes	57	9.6	21	17.9	81	11.1
No	534	90.4	96	82.1	647	88.9

Use of someone else's medication, by CHAT area

	Englewood		North Port		LOVN	
	FREQUENCY	PERCENT	FREQUENCY	PERCENT	FREQUENCY	PERCENT
Yes	23	13.1	30	10.7	28	10.5
No	152	86.9	251	89.3	239	89.5
Total	175	100	281	100	267	100
Missing	1	.	3	.	2	.

Choosing Between Food and Medication/Health Care

For many residents, choices between eating and getting health care are not uncommon. In nearly 1 in 8 households (12.3%), someone has had to choose between buying food and paying for medication or other types of health care. The data by CHAT area shows that between 6.9% and 16.5% reported having to choose between buying food or buying medications due to the high costs of prescription medications.

Have you or a family member ever had to choose between buying food or paying for medications or health care?

	FREQUENCY	PERCENT
Yes	84	12.3
No	593	86.8
Don't know / Refused	6	0.8

Forced to choose between buying food or paying for medications or health care by CHAT Area

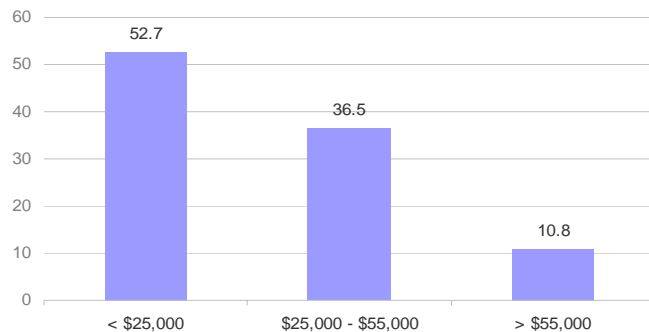
	Englewood		North Port		LOVN	
	FREQUENCY	PERCENT	FREQUENCY	PERCENT	FREQUENCY	PERCENT
Yes	21	13.8	44	16.5	18	6.9
No	130	85.5	219	82	241	92.7
Don't know / Refused	1	0.7	4	1.4	1	0.4
Total	152	100	267	100	260	100
Missing	24	.	17	.	9	.

Further examination of the group who responded yes to the question of having to choose between buying food and paying for medication or health care shows this choice is significantly related to insurance and income. Among those without health insurance, 26.4% had to choose between food or prescription medications or health care. Residents with the lowest income were also more likely to have to choose between food and medications/health care, with nearly 53% reporting this choice as compared to 36.5% of middle income and 10.8% of upper income respondents.

Forced to choose between buying food or paying for medications/healthcare by insurance status

	FREQUENCY	PERCENT
Insurance	52	9.3
No Insurance	28	26.4

Percent who have had to choose between buying food and paying for medication/healthcare, by income



When asked what they did when faced with having to choose between food or medication/health care, more than 38% chose food over health care and nearly 27% went without food. Others were forced to neglect other bills (including rent - 9%) or borrow money to get the health care they needed.

What did you or this family member do?

	FREQUENCY	PERCENT
Went without healthcare	30	38.5
Went without food	21	26.9
Didn't pay the rent	7	9.0
Don't know	6	7.7
Other	16	20.5

Dental Care

Dental care services are increasingly expensive and difficult to receive for people with limited income, yet routine dental exams can identify decay, cancer, and other problems before they advance. Therefore receiving routine dental care is considered an important preventative healthcare behavior.

The survey data show that only 60% of respondents had a dental exam or teeth cleaning in the past year. Regular dental exams are even less common than other physical exams. Only 48.7% of residents in North Port, 64.8% of residents in Englewood, and 68.3% of residents of LOVN reported that they had a dental exam. This leaves approximately one-third of residents in LOVN and Englewood and as many as 50% of residents in North Port without routine dental care.

More than 41% of respondents reported that they had not had a dental exam or teeth cleaning in the past year due to cost. Few respondents (8%) felt that dental visits were not necessary. The data by community show that the largest proportion of respondents (between 39% and 42.2%) reported that they could not afford dental care. Another 5.8% to 12.3% reported that they did not think that dental care was necessary, and between 5.8% and 8.1% reported that they don't have a dentist. Another 35% to 47% of respondents reported "other reasons" for not seeking care.

Have you had a dental exam or your teeth cleaned in the past year?

	FREQUENCY	PERCENT
Yes	437	60.0
No	285	39.1
Don't know	3	0.4
Other	3	0.4

Dental exam in the past year by CHAT Area

	Englewood		North Port		LOVN	
	FREQUENCY	PERCENT	FREQUENCY	PERCENT	FREQUENCY	PERCENT
Yes	114	64.8	136	48.7	183	68.3
No	61	34.7	139	49.8	84	31.3
Don't know	0	0	3	1.1	0	0
Other	1	0.6	1	0.4	1	0.4
Total	176	100	279	100	268	100
Missing	0	.	5	.	1	.

If no, why have you not had a dental exam in the past year?

	FREQUENCY	PERCENT
Can't afford dental care	109	41.6
Don't think it is necessary	21	8.0
Don't have a dentist	19	7.3
Don't know / Refused	11	11.4
Other	102	38.9

Reason for no dental care, by CHAT Area

	Englewood		North Port		LOVN	
	FREQUENCY	PERCENT	FREQUENCY	PERCENT	FREQUENCY	PERCENT
Can't afford dental care	24	42.1	57	42.2	27	39.1
Don't think it is necessary	7	12.3	10	7.4	4	5.8
Don't have a dentist	4	7	11	8.1	4	5.8
Don't know / Refused	2	3.5	8	5.9	1	1.4
Other	20	35.1	49	36.3	33	47.8
Total	57	100	135	100	69	100
Missing	119	.	149	.	200	.

Access to Dental Care

Nearly 1 in 5 respondents (17.7%) report that they could not get needed dental care of some kind. Cost and lack of dental insurance were the primary barriers to receiving dental services. The data by CHAT area show that North Port residents are significantly more likely to go without dental care (24.8%) than are respondents in the other CHAT areas. Only 14.5% of Englewood respondents and 11.6% of LOVN respondents reported that they were unable to access needed dental care.

Are there any dental services that you need but cannot get?

	FREQUENCY	PERCENT
Yes	128	17.7
No	595	82.3
Total	723	100

Are there any dental services that you need but cannot get? By CHAT Area

	Englewood		North Port		LOVN	
	FREQUENCY	PERCENT	FREQUENCY	PERCENT	FREQUENCY	PERCENT
Yes	25	14.5	69	24.8	31	11.6
No	148	85.5	209	75.2	236	88.4
Total	173	100	278	100	267	100
Missing	3	.	6	.	2	.

Access to dental care appears to be related to both income and insurance status. Among those with an income below \$25,000 per year, 31.4% needed but could not get dental care. This proportion is twice as high as those with an income greater than \$25,000 (13%). Further, while 12.1% of respondents who have health insurance said they could not get dental care, 42.6% of those without insurance reported that they could not get the care they needed.

Need, but cannot get, dental care, by income

	<\$25,000		>\$25,000	
	FREQUENCY	PERCENT	FREQUENCY	PERCENT
Yes	61	31.4	56	12.9
No	133	68.6	377	87.1
All	194	100	433	100

Are there any dental services that you need but cannot get, by insurance coverage?

	HEALTH INSURANCE		NO HEALTH INSURANCE	
	FREQUENCY	PERCENT	FREQUENCY	PERCENT
Yes	71	12.1	49	42.6
No	516	87.9	66	57.4



HEALTH CARE CONCERNS FOR THE FUTURE

We asked survey participants a series of questions about their concerns about their health care for the future. We asked, how worried they were about affording prescription drugs, health care, and health insurance over the next year.

The inability to afford medications is a fear for many. More than half (51.6%) of the respondents are at least somewhat worried that they will be unable to afford prescription medications within the next year. A nearly equal proportion (51.9%) are worried that they won't be able to afford health care, and two-thirds (66.9%) are worried that health insurance premiums will rise out of reach. Almost one-third of respondents (30.1%) reported worry about losing health insurance over the next year. [The data by CHAT area are summarized in the tables and text below.]

How worried are you that over the next year you won't be able to afford the following?

		WORRIED	SOMEWHAT WORRIED	NOT TOO WORRIED	NOT AT ALL WORRIED
Unable to Afford Prescription Drugs	FREQUENCY	218	157	111	241
	PERCENT	30.0	21.6	15.3	33.1
Unable to Afford Healthcare	FREQUENCY	211	168	121	229
	PERCENT	28.9	23.0	16.6	31.4
Unable to Afford Health Insurance	FREQUENCY	317	167	82	157
	PERCENT	43.8	23.1	11.3	21.7
Loss of Health Insurance	FREQUENCY	214	138	120	238
	PERCENT	30.1	19.4	23.8	33.5

Worries About Affording Prescription Drugs by CHAT Area

When asked how worried they were that they won't be able to afford prescription drugs over the next year, more than 21% of Englewood and 23.9% of LOVN respondents reported that they were worried, while more than 41% of North Port residents were worried. Another 17.1% to 28.7% of respondents reported that they were "somewhat" worried about affording prescription drugs.

How worried are you that over the next year you won't be able to afford prescription drugs? By CHAT Area

	Englewood		North Port		LOVN	
	FREQUENCY	PERCENT	FREQUENCY	PERCENT	FREQUENCY	PERCENT
Worried	37	21.3	115	41.1	64	23.9
Somewhat worried	50	28.7	48	17.1	58	21.6
Not too worried	32	18.4	44	15.7	34	12.7
Not at all worried	55	31.6	73	26.1	112	41.8
Total	174	100	280	100	268	100
Missing	2	.	4	.	1	.

Worries About Affording Health Care by CHAT Area

When asked how worried they were that over the next year they won't be able to afford health care, similar proportions of respondents reported that they were worried: 21.7%, 41.3% and 20.1% in Englewood, North Port and LOVN, respectively. Another 21% to 25% of respondents were "somewhat worried" about their ability to afford healthcare.

How worried are you that over the next year you won't be able to afford healthcare? By CHAT Area

	Englewood		North Port		LOVN	
	FREQUENCY	PERCENT	FREQUENCY	PERCENT	FREQUENCY	PERCENT
Worried	38	21.7	116	41.3	54	20.1
Somewhat worried	45	25.7	59	21	63	23.5
Not too worried	37	21.1	40	14.2	43	16
Not at all worried	55	31.4	66	23.5	108	40.3
Total	175	100	281	100	268	100
Missing	1	.	3	.	1	.

Worries about Affording Health Insurance by CHAT Area

When asked about how worried they were that they would not be able to afford health insurance in the coming year, larger proportions of residents reported that they were “worried” - 37% in Englewood, 52% in North Port and 39.4% in LOVN. Another 17% to 28% of respondents were “somewhat worried” about being able to afford health insurance, raising the proportion of people “worried” or “somewhat worried” to more than 65% in all communities.

How worried are you that over the next year you won't be able to afford health insurance? by CHAT Area

	Englewood		North Port		LOVN	
	FREQUENCY	PERCENT	FREQUENCY	PERCENT	FREQUENCY	PERCENT
Worried	64	37.0	146	52.0	104	39.4
Somewhat worried	50	28.9	50	17.8	66	25.0
Not too worried	22	12.7	28	10.0	32	12.1
Not at all worried	37	21.4	57	20.3	62	23.5
Total	173	100	281	100	264	100
Missing	3	.	3	.	5	.

Worries about Losing Health Insurance

When asked how worried they were that they may lose their health insurance benefits in the coming year, 23% of Englewood residents, 40% of North Port residents, and 22.8% of LOVN residents were “worried”. Another 15% to 22% was “somewhat worried” about losing their health insurance benefits. Though the worries about losing health insurance are somewhat less than worries about being able to afford insurance, they still represent more than 45% of respondents in all communities, and 55% in North Port, with worries about losing health insurance.

How worried are you that over the next year you will lose your insurance benefits? by CHAT Area

	Englewood		North Port		LOVN	
	FREQUENCY	PERCENT	FREQUENCY	PERCENT	FREQUENCY	PERCENT
Worried	39	23.5	114	40.7	59	22.8
Somewhat worried	36	21.7	42	15	59	22.8
Not too worried	34	20.5	44	15.7	41	15.8
Not at all worried	57	34.3	80	28.6	100	38.6
Total	166	100	280	100	259	100
Missing	10		4		10	

HEALTH STATUS

Physical Health

Self-Reported Health Status

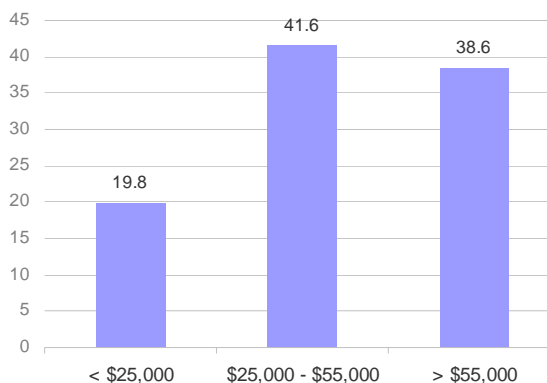
Health status questions are typically used in health surveys to provide a general measure of self-reported health, with respondents assessing their health status on a scale from poor to excellent. These survey data show that self-reported health status is nearly evenly distributed between “excellent” or “very good” (48.5%) and “good” or “fair” (46.2%). The remainder (5.4%) rated their health as “poor.” High and middle-income respondents were more likely to report that their health is “excellent”. Less than 20% of respondents in the lowest income category reported excellent health in comparison to respondents in the moderate to higher income categories (41.6% and 38.6%, respectively).

Health status by CHAT communities shows some variation across communities. Respondents in the LOVN area are most likely to report excellent or very good health (55.3%), followed closely by Englewood (51.1%). North Port respondents were markedly less likely to report excellent or very good health (40.9%). At the other end of the health spectrum, North Port respondents were also more likely to report fair or poor health (23.9%), followed by Englewood (18.2%) and LOVN (16.2%) respondents.

In general, how would you rate your health?

	FREQUENCY	PERCENT
Excellent	113	15.5
Very good	240	33.0
Good	229	31.5
Fair	107	14.7
Poor	39	5.4

Percent reporting excellent health, by income



Self-reported health status by CHAT Area

	Englewood		North Port		LOVN	
	FREQUENCY	PERCENT	FREQUENCY	PERCENT	FREQUENCY	PERCENT
Excellent	34	19.3	36	12.8	43	16.2
Very good	56	31.8	79	28.1	104	39.1
Good	54	30.7	99	35.2	76	28.6
Fair	26	14.8	46	16.4	34	12.8
Poor	6	3.4	21	7.5	9	3.4
Total	176	100	281	100	266	100
Missing	.	.	3	.	3	.

Health Conditions

Respondents were asked about a set of health problems that they or a family member may have to measure the prevalence of common or chronic health conditions. These data are summarized below. The health conditions most prevalent in this sample were allergies, high cholesterol, dental problems, high blood pressure, and weight problems – between 20% and 40% of respondents stated that they or a family member suffered from these problems. Also appearing in the double digits among the individuals surveyed were asthma, bronchitis, cancer, diabetes, depression, heart problems, and thyroid problems.

Which of the following health problems have you or a family member had in the past 3 years?

CONDITION	RESPONDENT		FAMILY MEMBER	
	N	PERCENT	N	PERCENT
High blood pressure	215	38.6	123	30.9
Allergies	199	35.7	130	32.7
High cholesterol	187	33.6	96	24.1
Weight problems	146	26.2	71	17.8
Dental problems	123	22.1	90	22.6
Heart problems	95	17.1	57	14.3
Depression	90	16.2	39	9.8
Diabetes	81	14.5	59	14.8
Thyroid problems	80	14.4	32	8
Bronchitis	73	13.1	28	7
Cancer	66	11.8	48	12.1
Asthma	57	10.2	59	14.8
Heart disease	55	9.9	38	9.5
Heart attack	37	6.6	41	10.3
Anemia	36	6.5	18	4.5
Glaucoma	32	5.7	30	7.5
Psychological problems	20	3.6	15	3.8
Emphysema	18	3.2	16	4
Bleeding trait	15	2.7	7	1.8
Alcoholism	12	2.2	16	4
Cirrhosis	7	1.3	6	1.5
Alzheimer's	1	0.2	18	4.5

Note: Respondents had the option to report more than one health problem. As a result, percentages may sum to more than 100%.

The prevalence of health problems did not vary notably from community to community, except for asthma and dental problems which were slightly higher in North Port than in the other communities and; high cholesterol, which was a less frequent problem in North Port than in the other communities. High blood pressure was more frequently a health problem in Englewood than in the other communities. Roughly 30% of residents of Englewood and North Port reported weight problems, compared to roughly 20% in the LOVN area.

Health problems experienced in the past 3 years by CHAT Area

CONDITION	Englewood				North Port				LOVN			
	RESPONDENT		FAMILY MEMBER		RESPONDENT		FAMILY MEMBER		RESPONDENT		FAMILY MEMBER	
	FREQ	%	FREQ	%	FREQ	%	FREQ	%	FREQ	%	FREQ	%
Alcoholism	2	1.4	5	5.2	7	3.3	4	2.3	3	1.4	7	5.3
Alzheimer's	1	0.7	2	2.1	0	0	5	2.8	0	0	11	8.4
Anemia	6	4.3	2	2.1	15	7.1	9	5.1	15	7.1	7	5.3
Asthma	7	5	12	12.4	29	13.7	23	13.1	21	10	23	17.6
Allergies	52	37.4	28	28.9	79	37.3	64	36.4	68	32.4	37	28.2
Bleeding trait	5	3.6	2	2.1	6	2.8	4	2.3	4	1.9	1	0.8
Bronchitis	21	15.1	8	8.2	29	13.7	14	8	22	10.5	6	4.6
Cancer	17	12.2	17	17.5	19	9	8	4.5	30	14.3	23	17.6
Cirrhosis	0	0	2	2.1	5	2.4	3	1.7	2	1	1	0.8
High cholesterol	49	35.3	22	22.7	60	28.3	35	19.9	78	37.1	37	28.2
Glaucoma	12	8.6	7	7.2	7	3.3	13	7.4	13	6.2	10	7.6
Dental problems	26	18.7	20	20.6	55	25.9	49	27.8	42	20	21	16
Diabetes	22	15.8	15	15.5	31	14.6	21	11.9	28	13.3	22	16.8
Depression	22	15.8	12	12.4	32	15.1	14	8	35	16.7	13	9.9
Emphysema	3	2.2	2	2.1	7	3.3	9	5.1	7	3.3	5	3.8
Heart problems	18	12.9	17	17.5	32	15.1	21	11.9	44	21	18	13.7
Heart attack	10	7.2	8	8.2	11	5.2	19	10.8	16	7.6	14	10.7
High blood pressure	58	41.7	28	28.9	74	34.9	48	27.3	81	38.6	45	34.4
Heart disease	11	7.9	8	8.2	17	8	15	8.5	26	12.4	14	10.7
Thyroid problems	26	18.7	8	8.2	24	11.3	15	8.5	30	14.3	9	6.9
Psychological problems	3	2.2	4	4.1	14	6.6	7	4	3	1.4	4	3.1
Weight problems	43	30.9	22	22.7	62	29.2	28	15.9	41	19.5	19	14.5
Other problems	19	13.7	10	10.3	19	9	9	5.1	29	13.8	11	8.4
Missing	37	.	79	.	72	.	108	.	59	.	138	.

Bed Days Due to Illness

On average over the past month, people in this study spent 1.12 days in bed due to illness or injury. Approximately 7% of respondents spent 5 or more days in bed because of illness and injury. While the majority of respondents in all communities reported no days, between 3% and 5.6% of respondents reported one day in bed and between 4.4% and 5.5% reported 2 days in bed. Smaller percentages of respondents reported 3 or 4 days, but then a larger proportion of respondents reported 5 or more days: 3.6% in Englewood, 9.6% in North Port and 5.2% in LOVN. Details on the illnesses or injuries for these respondents were not collected.

During the past month, how many days did illness or injury keep you in bed all or most of the time?

	FREQUENCY	PERCENT
0	556	80.6
1	30	4.4
2	35	5.1
3	15	2.2
4	8	1.2
5 or more	46	6.7

Days in bed during past month by CHAT Area

	Englewood		North Port		LOVN	
	FREQUENCY	PERCENT	FREQUENCY	PERCENT	FREQUENCY	PERCENT
0	141	84.9	212	77.9	201	80.7
1	7	4.2	9	3.3	14	5.6
2	9	5.4	15	5.5	11	4.4
3	2	1.2	7	2.6	6	2.4
4	1	0.6	3	1.1	4	1.6
5 or more	6	3.6	26	9.6	13	5.2
Total	166	100	272	100	249	100
Missing	10	.	12	.	20	.

Activities of Daily Living

The age structure of Sarasota and Charlotte Counties suggest the need for information on issues relating to self-care, mobility and social support. As residents age, they have increased needs for in-home or nursing home care and the support of family and friends to manage medical care. We asked respondents if they had any difficulties in the past month with taking care of themselves, getting out of bed, or walking indoors. About ten percent of respondents reported that in the past month they had at least some difficulty taking care of themselves. For 15%, getting out of a bed or a chair was difficult and for about 12% just walking indoors was problematic. The majority of residents (89.2% in LOVN to 92.6% in Englewood) responded “Usually no difficulty”. Between 5.9% (in LOVN) and 7.4% (in North Port) of respondents reported some difficulty, while none reported much difficulty. This latter finding may reflect a lower survey participation rate among residents with great self-care difficulties.

During the past month have you had trouble doing any of the following?

		USUALLY NO DIFFICULTY	SOME DIFFICULTY	MUCH DIFFICULTY	DID NOT DO DUE TO HEALTH
Taking care of self	FREQUENCY	662	49	12	5
	PERCENT	90.4	6.7	1.6	0.7
Getting out of bed or chair	FREQUENCY	620	88	17	3
	PERCENT	84.7	12.0	2.3	0.4
Walking indoors	FREQUENCY	644	67	13	4
	PERCENT	88.2	9.2	1.8	0.5

Difficulty taking care of oneself during past month by CHAT Area

	Englewood		North Port		LOVN	
	FREQUENCY	PERCENT	FREQUENCY	PERCENT	FREQUENCY	PERCENT
Usually no difficulty	161	92.5	256	90.5	241	89.3
Some difficulty	12	6.9	21	7.4	16	5.9
Much difficulty	.	.	6	2.1	5	1.9
Did not do due to health	.	.	.	.	8	2.9
Total	174	100.0	283	100.0	270	100.0
Missing	1	.	1	.	.	.

Trouble getting out of bed during past month by CHAT Area

	Englewood		North Port		LOVN	
	FREQUENCY	PERCENT	FREQUENCY	PERCENT	FREQUENCY	PERCENT
Usually no difficulty	152	87.4	240	84.8	227	84.1
Some difficulty	18	10.3	35	12.4	31	11.5
Much difficulty	3	1.7	8	2.8	6	2.2
Did not do due to health	.	.	.	.	6	2.2
Total	174	100.0	283	100.0	270	100.0
Missing	1	.	1	.	.	.

Trouble walking during past month by CHAT Area

	Englewood		North Port		LOVN	
	FREQUENCY	PERCENT	FREQUENCY	PERCENT	FREQUENCY	PERCENT
Usually no difficulty	155	89.1	248	87.9	240	89.2
Some difficulty	17	9.8	27	9.6	20	7.4
Much difficulty	1	0.6	7	2.5	4	1.5
Did not do due to health	.	.	.	.	5	1.8
Total	174	100.0	282	100.0	269	100.0
Missing	1	.	2	.	1	.

Mental Health

The recent report from SCOPE on mental health issues in Sarasota County highlighted the prevalence of this problem. These survey results are consistent with these findings. When asked, “In the past month, have you had difficulty completing your usual activities because you felt sad, down, depressed or anxious?” more than 16% reported yes. Yet only half of this group sought help for their depression. These levels vary some by community, with fewer residents in Englewood (57.1%), than those in North Port (46.9%) or LOVN (48.9%) report seeking help for mental health issues.

In the past month have you had difficulty completing your usual activities because you felt sad, down, depressed, or anxious?

	FREQUENCY	PERCENT
Yes	120	16.5
No	608	83.5
Refused	0	0

Have you sought help because you had difficulty completing your usual activities because you felt sad, down, depressed, or anxious?

	FREQUENCY	PERCENT
Yes	62	50.0
No	60	48.4
Refused	2	16

In the past month have you had difficulty completing your usual activities because you felt sad, down, depressed, or anxious? By CHAT Area

	Englewood		North Port		LOVN	
	FREQUENCY	PERCENT	FREQUENCY	PERCENT	FREQUENCY	PERCENT
Yes	27	15.3	46	16.5	45	16.8
No	149	84.7	233	83.5	223	83.2
Total	176	100	279	100	268	100
Missing	0	0	5	.	0	0

Have you sought help because you had difficulty completing your usual activities because you felt sad, down, depressed, or anxious? By CHAT Area

	Englewood		North Port		LOVN	
	FREQUENCY	PERCENT	FREQUENCY	PERCENT	FREQUENCY	PERCENT
Yes	16	57.1	23	46.9	22	48.9
No	12	42.9	25	51	22	48.9
Refused	0	0	1	2	1	2.2
Total	28	100	49	100	45	100
Missing	148	.	235	.	224	.

Difficulties Concentrating

Difficulties concentrating can also be a symptom of depression. More than 1 in 6 of these respondents (17.2%) reported difficulties with concentration or thinking. Forty-three percent of these people reported getting some kind of help for this problem. The data by CHAT area shows that similar proportions of respondents as those who reported depression or anxiety reported problems concentrating: 19.9% in Englewood, 16.1% in North Port and 15.8% in the LOVN area. The proportion of respondents who had also sought help for this problem were as follows: 45.7% of Englewood respondents; 39.2% of North Port respondents and 45.7% of LOVN respondents.

In the past month have you had trouble thinking or concentrating?

	FREQUENCY	PERCENT
Yes	125	17.2
No	601	82.8
Refused	0	0

Have you sought help for this problem?

	FREQUENCY	PERCENT
Yes	58	42.96
No	75	55.56
Refused	2	1.48

Trouble thinking or concentrating in past month, by CHAT Area

	Englewood		North Port		LOVN	
	FREQUENCY	PERCENT	FREQUENCY	PERCENT	FREQUENCY	PERCENT
Yes	35	19.9	45	16.1	42	15.8
No	141	80.1	234	83.9	224	84.2
Total	176	100	279	100	266	100
Missing	.	.	5	.	3	.

Have you sought help because you have had difficulty concentrating or thinking? By CHAT Area

	Englewood		North Port		LOVN	
	FREQUENCY	PERCENT	FREQUENCY	PERCENT	FREQUENCY	PERCENT
Yes	16	45.7	20	39.2	21	45.7
No	19	54.3	30	58.8	24	52.2
Don't know / Refused	0	0	1	2	1	2.2
Total	35	100	51	100	46	100
Missing	141	.	233	.	223	.

Knowledge of Mental Health Care Services

Nearly one-quarter of respondents (27.3%) did not know where to go to obtain help with mental health problems. To address the issue of residents’ knowledge of where to get mental health treatment, we asked respondents if they or a family member had a mental health problem, would they know where to get help. Only 2.4% of respondents report that a family member could not get treatment for a mental health problem. Neither income nor insurance status was related to seeking help for symptoms of depression or drug and alcohol problems. Between 66% and 76% of respondents reported knowing where to get help for a mental health issue, with the largest proportion (76.7%) in Englewood.

If you or a family member experienced anxiety, depression, and other mental health issues would you know where to get help?

	FREQUENCY	PERCENT
Yes	528	72.2
No	200	27.3
Refused	3	0.4

If you or a family member experienced anxiety, depression, and other mental health issues would you know where to get help? By CHAT Area

	Englewood		North Port		LOVN	
	FREQUENCY	PERCENT	FREQUENCY	PERCENT	FREQUENCY	PERCENT
Yes	135	76.7	189	66.8	199	74.5
No	38	21.6	76	26.9	61	22.8
Don't know / Refused	3	1.7	15	5.3	7	2.6
Total	176	100	280	100	267	100
Missing	0	.	4	.	2	.

Inability to Obtain Mental Health Treatment

When asked if they had a family member with a mental health problem who was unable to get treatment, 2.4% reported yes, and 96.8% reported no.

Do any family members have a mental health problem that they are unable to get treatment for?

	FREQUENCY	PERCENT
Yes	17	2.4
No	697	96.8
Don't know / Refused	6	.8

Does anyone in the household have a mental health problem that they are unable to get treatment for?

	Englewood		North Port		LOVN	
	FREQUENCY	PERCENT	FREQUENCY	PERCENT	FREQUENCY	PERCENT
Yes	6	3.4	9	3.2	2	0.7
No	168	96.6	267	95.7	262	98.1
Don't know / Refused	0	0	3	1.1	3	1.1
Total	174	100	279	100	267	100
Missing	2	.	5	.	2	.

Alcohol and Drug Problems

Related to the problems of mental health, are issues of substance abuse. Although a commonly under-reported health issue in face-to-face surveys, we asked respondents: Does anyone in the household have an alcohol or drug problem. Alcohol or drugs were reported as a problem in 3.6% of the households surveyed, and in 58.1% of these families, the problems were going untreated. Respondents in the LOVN are were most likely to report problems with alcohol or drugs, at 6.3%, followed by Englewood (2.3%) and North Port (1.8%) respondents. We also asked respondents if the person with the problem receiving treatment. In LOVN the response was yes for 43.8% of those with a problem; while only 11% and 16.7% of North Port and Englewood respondents were receiving treatment. [note: these figures may not be generalizable to the population given the small number of respondents who reported yes in the communities.]

Does anyone in the household have an alcohol or drug problem?

	FREQUENCY	PERCENT
Yes	26	3.6
No	693	95.6
Refused	6	0.8

If yes, is this person getting treatment for their drug or alcohol problem?

	FREQUENCY	PERCENT
Yes	9	29.0
No	18	58.1
Refused	4	13.0

Does anyone in the household have an alcohol or drug problem? By CHAT Area

	Englewood		North Port		LOVN	
	FREQUENCY	PERCENT	FREQUENCY	PERCENT	FREQUENCY	PERCENT
Yes	4	2.3	5	1.8	17	6.3
No	168	97.7	269	96.4	251	93.3
Refused	.	.	5	1.8	1	0.4
Total	172	100	279	100	269	100
Missing	4	.	5	.	.	.

If yes, is the person getting treatment for their drug or alcohol problem? By CHAT Area

	Englewood		North Port		LOVN	
	FREQUENCY	PERCENT	FREQUENCY	PERCENT	FREQUENCY	PERCENT
Yes	1	16.7	1	11.1	7	43.8
No	5	83.3	5	55.6	8	50
Refused	0	0	3	33.3	1	6.3
Total	6	100	9	100	16	100

PHYSICAL & EMOTIONAL SUPPORT

Physical Support

Physical and emotional support is critical for all residents, but particularly the elderly and infirmed. Roughly one-third of those surveyed believed that if they were physically incapacitated they would not have the help they needed most of the time (i.e., they report this help none, a little or some of the time). For 35% of respondents support would not be consistently available if they were bedridden. Slightly fewer (31.1%) would not routinely have someone to prepare meals for them. For 33.6% of respondents, there is frequently no one around to help them with daily chores when they are sick. Responses to these questions by CHAT area are reported in the tables and text below.

How often would you say the following support is available to you?

		NONE OF THE TIME	A LITTLE OF THE TIME	SOME OF THE TIME	MOST OF THE TIME	ALL OF THE TIME
Help if you are confined to bed	FREQUENCY	91	38	126	128	346
	PERCENT	12.5	5.2	17.3	17.6	47.5
Help to prepare meals	FREQUENCY	81	39	107	125	378
	PERCENT	11.1	5.3	14.7	17.1	51.8
Help with daily chores	FREQUENCY	85	47	112	119	378
	PERCENT	11.7	6.5	15.4	16.4	51.8

Support if Confined to Bed, by CHAT Area

Although a majority of residents in all communities report having support “all or most of the time” if they were confined to bed, between 16.9% and 18.3% report this support only “some of the time, and approximately 5% report this support “a little of the time.” Between 9.7% and 16.3% report this support “none of the time.” These figures suggest that approximately 15% to 20% of respondents would not have adequate support if they became ill and were confined to bed.

How often is this support available: Someone to help if you are confined to bed? By CHAT Area

	Englewood		North Port		LOVN	
	FREQUENCY	PERCENT	FREQUENCY	PERCENT	FREQUENCY	PERCENT
None of the time	17	9.7	46	16.3	28	10.5
A little of the time	10	5.7	14	4.9	14	5.3
Some of the time	32	18.3	48	17	45	16.9
Most of the time	39	22.3	52	18.4	36	13.5
All of the time	77	44	123	43.5	143	53.8
Total	175	100	283	100	266	100
Missing	1	.	1	.	3	.

Meal Preparation, by CHAT Area

When asked the same question about someone being available to prepare meals for them, approximately the same proportion of residents in all CHAT areas would be without someone to prepare meals: between 11 and 21% said they had someone “never” or “a little of the time” to prepare meals. Approximately half of the residents in Englewood and North Port and more than 57% of residents in the LOVN CHAT had someone to prepare meals all of the time, with another 15 to 18% available most of the time.

How often is this support available: Someone to prepare meals for you? By CHAT Area

	Englewood		North Port		LOVN	
	FREQUENCY	PERCENT	FREQUENCY	PERCENT	FREQUENCY	PERCENT
None of the time	17	9.7	42	14.8	22	8.2
A little of the time	10	5.7	20	7.1	9	3.4
Some of the time	28	16	35	12.4	43	16.1
Most of the time	33	18.9	51	18	40	15
All of the time	87	49.7	135	47.7	153	57.3
Total	175	100	283	100	267	100
Missing	1	.	1	.	2	.

Someone to Help with Chores, by CHAT Area

Similar proportions of residents reported having someone available to do chore for them if they became sick. Again, between 13% and 24% reported that they had someone available to do chores “a little of the time” or “never.” A larger percentage of respondents, 43% to 56.8% of respondents had someone to do chores “all of the time.”

How often is this support available: Someone to help with daily chores if you are sick? By CHAT Area

	Englewood		North Port		LOVN	
	FREQUENCY	PERCENT	FREQUENCY	PERCENT	FREQUENCY	PERCENT
None of the time	17	9.7	47	16.6	21	8
A little of the time	11	6.3	23	8.1	13	4.9
Some of the time	27	15.4	42	14.8	42	15.9
Most of the time	31	17.7	49	17.3	38	14.4
All of the time	89	50.9	122	43.1	150	56.8
Total	175	100	283	100	264	100
Missing	1	.	1	.	5	.

Physical Support by Income

These types of physical supports are less likely to be available to those with lower incomes. Respondents with incomes below \$25,000 are twice as likely as those who report incomes above \$55,000 to say that this help is available “none of the time.”

Percent who report selected supports are available none of the time by CHAT Area

	< \$25,000		\$25,000 - \$55,000		> \$55,000	
	FREQUENCY	PERCENT	FREQUENCY	PERCENT	FREQUENCY	PERCENT
Help if confined to bed	37	19.0	31	10.9	15	9.9
Help to prepare meals	33	16.9	28	9.9	12	7.9
Help with daily chores	35	18.0	29	10.2	13	8.6

Mobility

Mobility and independence are important aspects of well-being in this country. As people age and lose their ability to drive and take care of daily tasks, they often suffer depression and a sense of loss. When asked about their ability to do their own grocery shopping, nearly 5% of survey respondents reported that they do not do their own grocery shopping. When asked about driving themselves, 7.4% of respondents reported that they do not drive themselves because they do not drive or do not have a car.

The data by CHAT area shows that between 4.5% (in Englewood) and 8.4% (in North Port) reported that they do not drive or do not have access to a vehicle. [see transportation section for more questions on transportation needs.] When asked if they do their own grocery shopping, between 2.3% (LOVN) and 7.7% (in North Port) reported that they did not.

Do you do your own grocery shopping?

	FREQUENCY	PERCENT
Yes	698	95.5
No	33	4.5

Do you do drive & have access to a car?

	FREQUENCY	PERCENT
Yes	679	92.6
No	54	7.4

Do you drive and have access to a vehicle on a regular basis? By CHAT Area

	Englewood		North Port		LOVN	
	FREQUENCY	PERCENT	FREQUENCY	PERCENT	FREQUENCY	PERCENT
Yes	168	95.5	260	91.5	247	92.2
No	8	4.5	24	8.5	21	7.8
Total	176	100	284	100	268	100
Missing	0	.	0	.	1	.

Do you do your own grocery shopping? By CHAT Area

	Englewood		North Port		LOVN	
	FREQUENCY	PERCENT	FREQUENCY	PERCENT	FREQUENCY	PERCENT
Yes	171	97.2	262	92.3	260	97.7
No	5	2.8	22	7.7	6	2.3
Total	176	100	284	100	266	100
Missing	0	.	0	.	3	.

Emotional Support

Social and physical support is dependent on the local availability of friends and family members to provide such support. When asked how many friends and family members resided within one hour travel time of their home, more than 80% of respondents reported 2 or more. However, for more than 5% of respondents there is no one within an hour's travel time on whom they can depend. The data by CHAT show that although the majority of respondents have at least one person in reasonably close proximity that they can count on, between 3.4% and 8.4% of respondents reported that they had no one living within this distance they could depend on

How many people within one hour's travel time from your home do you feel you can depend on?

	FREQUENCY	PERCENT
No one	39	5.3
1 person	84	11.5
2 people	118	16.2
3 or more people	489	67.0
Total	730	100.0

How many people within one hour's travel time from your home do you feel you can depend on? By CHAT Area

	Englewood		North Port		LOVN	
	FREQUENCY	PERCENT	FREQUENCY	PERCENT	FREQUENCY	PERCENT
No one	6	3.4	24	8.5	9	3.4
1 person	16	9.1	25	8.9	43	16
2 people	37	21.1	39	13.8	42	15.7
3 or more people	116	66.3	194	68.8	174	64.9
Total	175	100	282	100	268	100
Missing	1	.	2	.	1	.

Someone to Listen

When asked how often they had someone to listen to them, the vast majority of respondents reported “all of the time” (64.2%) or “most of the time” (15.1%; by CHAT, this proportion ranged from 76% to 82%). However, 7% of respondents reported never having someone they can count on to listen, and another 4.1% reported having someone to listen only a “little of the time.”

How often would you say the following support is available to you?

		NONE OF THE TIME	A LITTLE OF THE TIME	SOME OF THE TIME	MOST OF THE TIME	ALL OF THE TIME
Someone to listen	FREQUENCY	52	30	69	110	468
	PERCENT	7.1	4.1	9.5	15.1	64.2

How often is this support available: Someone you can count on to listen? By CHAT Area

	Englewood		North Port		LOVN	
	FREQUENCY	PERCENT	FREQUENCY	PERCENT	FREQUENCY	PERCENT
None of the time	10	5.7	34	12	8	3
A little of the time	9	5.1	11	3.9	10	3.8
Some of the time	16	9.1	24	8.5	28	10.5
Most of the time	31	17.7	48	17.0	29	10.9
All of the time	109	62.3	166	58.7	191	71.8
Total	175	100	283	100	266	100
Missing	1	.	1	.	3	.

Some one to Talk To About Deepest Problems

When asked how often they can talk to someone about their deepest problems, smaller proportions of respondents said no one. Twenty percent of respondents report that they can count on someone to listen when they need to talk only some of the time and 1 in 10 can “never” or “hardly ever” share their deepest problems with someone close to them. The data by CHAT area shows that 3.4% of respondents in Englewood, 5.3% in North Port and LOVN and 3.8% in LOVN reported that they had someone to talk to “none of the time.” Another 4% to 7% of this group reported that they had someone to talk to “hardly ever.” At the other end of the continuum, between 69% and 82% of respondents reported having someone to talk to most of or all of the time.

How often can you talk about your deepest problems with someone?

	FREQUENCY	PERCENT
None of the time	31	4.2
Hardly ever	45	6.2
Some of the time	116	15.9
Most of the time	146	20.0
All of the time	386	52.8
Don't know / Refused	7	0.9

How often can you talk about your deepest problems with someone? By CHAT Area

	Englewood		North Port		LOVN	
	FREQUENCY	PERCENT	FREQUENCY	PERCENT	FREQUENCY	PERCENT
None of the time	6	3.4	15	5.3	10	3.8
Hardly ever	7	4	19	6.7	19	7.1
Some of the time	23	13.1	51	18	39	14.7
Most of the time	45	25.6	60	21.1	40	15
All of the time	93	52.8	138	48.6	154	57.9
Don't know / Refused	2	1.2	1	0.4	4	1.6
Total	176	100	284	100	266	100
Missing	0	.	0	.	3	.

PREVENTATIVE CARE AND BEHAVIOR

Research on prevention and health promotion has consistently shown that preventive health care services and healthy behaviors, including routine physical exams, annual dental cleanings, exercise and a healthy diet, can contribute more to the health of individuals than does medical care utilization. The CHATs are particularly interested in this aspect of community health and have plans to expand health and wellness services in all communities.

Annual Physicals

We asked respondents about the frequency of physicals in the past 1 to 2 years. Nearly 20% of those surveyed have not had a physical in the past 2 years primarily because they don't feel they need it. Lack of time and, to a lesser extent, cost were also mentioned as reasons for failing to get a physical exam. The data by CHAT area show that the proportion of residents who have had a recent physical ranged from a low of 71.4% in North Port to a high of 89.8% in Englewood. LOVN respondents were in between these proportions, at 80.9%. When asked if they thought routine physicals were important, only 74.9% to 78.4% said that they were very important; another 17.9% to 20.5% reported that they were somewhat important. Between 2.5% and 5.7% reported that they were not important at all.

Have you had a complete physical within the past 1 to 2 years?

	TOTAL	
	FREQUENCY	PERCENT
Yes	581	79.5
No	143	19.6
Don't know / Refused	7	0.9

Have you had a complete physical within the past 1-2 years? By CHAT Area

	Englewood		North Port		LOVN	
	FREQUENCY	PERCENT	FREQUENCY	PERCENT	FREQUENCY	PERCENT
Yes	158	89.8	202	71.4	216	80.9
No	18	10.2	74	26.1	51	19.1
Don't know / Refused	0	0	7	2.5	0	0
Total	176	100	283	100	267	100
Missing	0	.	1	.	2	.

Importance of Physicals

Consistent with the above findings are data on the proportion of respondents who do not think it is very important to have a physical. Nearly one-fifth of all respondents thought that a regular physical was only somewhat important. By CHAT, only 74.9% to 78.4% said that they thought physicals were very important; another 17.9% to 20.5% reported that they were somewhat important. Between 2.5% and 5.7% reported that they were not important at all.

How important do you think it is to have regular physicals?

	FREQUENCY	PERCENT
Very important	560	76.5
Somewhat important	138	18.9
Don't know / Refused	10	1.3

How important do you think it is to have regular physicals? By CHAT Area

	Englewood		North Port		LOVN	
	FREQUENCY	PERCENT	FREQUENCY	PERCENT	FREQUENCY	PERCENT
Very important	133	75.6	212	74.9	210	78.4
Somewhat important	32	18.2	58	20.5	48	17.9
Not at all important	10	5.7	7	2.5	7	2.6
Don't know / Refused	1	0.6	6	2.2	3	1.1
Total	176	100	283	100	268	100
Missing	0	.	1	.	1	.

Physical by Health Insurance Coverage

The survey data show that health insurance coverage is a critical factor when it comes to seeking this type of preventative care. While 84.5% of people with health insurance have had a physical in the past 2 years, only 53.8% of those without insurance have done the same. Retirees are most likely to have had a physical: 87.4% of retirees compared to 74.0% of non-retirees reported having a physical.

Have you had a complete physical within the past 1-2 years? By Health Insurance Coverage

	HEALTH INSURANCE		NO HEALTH INSURANCE	
	FREQUENCY	PERCENT	FREQUENCY	PERCENT
Yes	500	84.5	63	53.8
No	86	14.5	54	46.2
Don't know / Refused	6	1.0	0	0

Complete physical within last year, by age



Beliefs About the Importance of Prevention

We asked respondents if they thought it was important to prevent disease through exercise, diet or other activities. More than 94.7% of respondents reported yes to this question. A small proportion reported no (.6% to 2.5%) or don't know (12.9% to 2.9%). These figures suggest that the CHAT residents believed in the importance of disease prevention and health promotion.

Do you think it is important to prevent disease through exercise, diet, or other activities?

	FREQUENCY	PERCENT
Yes	698	95.7
No	13	1.8
Don't know / Refused	18	2.5

**Do you think it is important to prevent disease through exercise, diet, or other activities?
By CHAT Area**

	Englewood		North Port		LOVN	
	FREQUENCY	PERCENT	FREQUENCY	PERCENT	FREQUENCY	PERCENT
Yes	169	96.6	268	94.7	256	96.2
No	1	0.6	7	2.5	5	1.9
Don't know / Refused	5	2.9	8	2.8	5	1.9
Total	175	100	283	100	266	100
Missing	1	.	1	.	3	.

Preventative Behavior: Blood Pressure Checks

When asked how long it had been since they had their blood pressure checked, the vast majority of respondents have their blood pressure checked annually. Only 4.4% have not had a blood pressure check in the past 2 years. Respondents with health insurance will most likely have had their blood pressure checked in the past year: 92.4% among the insured compared to 74.4% among those without insurance. Between 82.6% (in North Port) and nearly 94 % (in Englewood and LOVN) reported that it has been checked in the past year. This variance between North Port and the other CHAT communities may reflect the greater concentration of elderly in Englewood and LOVN, who may be more aware of the need to check their blood pressure as they age.

About how long has it been since you had your blood pressure checked?

	FREQUENCY	PERCENT
< year	654	89.5
1-2 years	45	6.2
2-5 years	32	4.4

About how long has it been since you had your blood pressure checked? By CHAT Area

	Englewood		North Port		LOVN	
	FREQUENCY	PERCENT	FREQUENCY	PERCENT	FREQUENCY	PERCENT
< 1 year	165	93.8	233	82.6	251	93.7
1-2 years	9	5.1	26	9.2	10	3.7
2-5 years	2	1.1	23	8.2	7	2.6
Total	176	100	282	100	268	100
Missing	0	.	2	.	1	.

Exercise

Three-quarters of this sample engaged in some sort of exercise in the past month. Respondents in the highest income category were substantially more likely to exercise than those in the lowest category (86% versus 67.7%).

During the past month, did you participate in any physical activities for exercise? By Income Category

	< \$25,000		\$25,000 - \$55,000		> \$55,000		TOTAL	
	FREQUENCY	PERCENT	FREQUENCY	PERCENT	FREQUENCY	PERCENT	FREQUENCY	PERCENT
Yes	132	67.7	221	77.8	129	86	556	76.1
No	62	31.8	63	22.2	20	13.3	172	23.5
Don't know / Refused	1	0.5	0	0	1	0.7	3	0.4

Smoking Cessation

Smoking cessation is one of the most beneficial preventative behaviors that smokers can do for their health. We asked respondents who smoked if they had ever tried to stop smoking for a day or longer. Overall, 60% of smokers have tried to stop smoking for one day or longer: this varied from 52% to 81% by CHAT area. Respondents in Englewood were both less likely to be smokers and more likely to have tried to quit. Approximately the same number of respondents in North Port and LOVN were smokers and just over half have tried to quit.

If you smoke, have you ever tried to stop smoking for one day or longer?

	Yes	
	FREQUENCY	PERCENT
Yes	151	60.2
No	96	38.2
Don't know / Refused	4	1.6

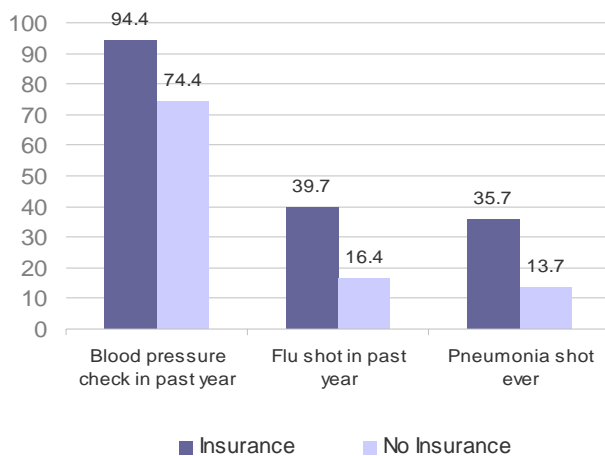
Tried to stop smoking for one day or longer by CHAT Area

	Englewood		North Port		LOVN	
	FREQUENCY	PERCENT	FREQUENCY	PERCENT	FREQUENCY	PERCENT
Yes	40	81.7	53	52.0	57	57.6
No	9	18.3	47	46.1	40	40.4
Don't know / Refused	0	.	2	1.9	2	2.0
Total	49	100	102	100	99	100
Missing	127	.	182	.	170	.

Correlates of Preventative Behaviors

Respondents with health insurance were far more likely to get preventative care than those without it. More than 90% of the insured had a blood pressure check in the past year compared to 74.4% of the uninsured. Those with insurance were also twice as likely to have had both a flu shot (39.7% versus 16.4%) and a pneumonia shot (35.7% versus 13.7%).

Percent who have engaged in select preventative care, by insurance status



Health Information

Health information is critical to appropriate health choices and health behaviors. Yet many residents do not have the information they need. When asked where respondents obtained information on where to go for health care, we found that people learn where to go for health care from a variety of sources. Most common sources of health care information are doctors (40.9%), friends (32%), and family (17.9%). Other important sources include provider directories (15.3%), the phonebook (11%), and hospital referral centers (9.6%).

Where do you get information about where to go for health care?

	FREQUENCY	PERCENT
Doctor	295	40.9
Friend	231	32.0
Family member	129	17.9
Provider directory	110	15.3
Other	82	11.4
Phone book	79	11.0
Hospital or hospital referral center	69	9.6
Internet	43	6.0
Referral line/United Way	13	1.8
First call for help	7	1.0
Library	5	0.7
Senior Friendship Center	4	0.6
Charlotte County Human Services	2	0.3
Elder Help Line of SW Florida	2	0.3

Where do you get information about where to go for health care? By CHAT Area

	ENGLEWOOD		NORTH PORT		LOVN	
	FREQUENCY	PERCENT	FREQUENCY	PERCENT	FREQUENCY	PERCENT
Doctor	81	46.3	104	36.6	108	40.0
Friend	65	37.1	79	27.8	84	31.1
Family member	33	18.9	56	19.7	39	14.4
Provider directory	17	9.7	65	22.9	27	10.0
Other	18	10.3	20	7.0	44	16.3
Phone book	14	8.0	46	16.2	19	7.0
Hospital or hospital referral center	16	9.1	25	8.8	27	10.0
Internet	7	4.0	23	8.1	13	4.8
Referral line/United Way	3	1.7	6	2.1	4	1.5
First call for help	1	0.6	4	1.4	2	0.7
Library	0	0.0	4	1.4	1	0.4
Senior Friendship Center	0	0.0	3	1.1	1	0.4
Charlotte County Human Services	0	0.0	0	0.0	2	0.7
Elder Help Line of SW Florida	0	0.0	1	0.4	1	0.4
Total	175	145.7	284	153.5	270	137.8

Referral Service Utilization

More than 1 in 5 respondents (21.8%) have found a doctor through a physicians' referral service. Residents of the LOVN area were most likely to have called a physicians referral service, at 24.8%, followed by residents of Englewood (21.1%). Residents of the LOVN area were most likely to have called a physician referral line (24.8%) with North Port at 21% and Englewood 19.1%.

Have you ever called a physician's referral service or hospital line to find a doctor?

	FREQUENCY	PERCENT
Yes	159	21.8
No	569	78.2

Have you ever called a physicians referral service or hospital line to find a doctor? By CHAT Area

	Englewood		North Port		LOVN	
	FREQUENCY	PERCENT	FREQUENCY	PERCENT	FREQUENCY	PERCENT
Yes	37	21.1	54	19.1	66	24.8
No	138	78.9	228	80.9	200	75.2
Total	175	100	282	100	266	100
Missing	1	.	2	.	3	.

When asked if the referral line was helpful, the vast majority of those responding said that it was helpful to them (data not presented here). Among users of referral lines, this service is well received: roughly 85% found the service helpful.

Was this service helpful?

	FREQUENCY	PERCENT
Yes	133	85.3
No	23	14.7

Awareness of Health Promotion Programs and Free Clinics

All three CHATs have identified a lack of knowledge or access to health promotion programs as a reason that more residents do not participate in health promotion activities. To try to measure the extent of awareness of programs we asked respondents if they knew of any clinics that treat people who don't have health insurance or of any programs in their community that could help them become healthier. Overall, survey results show that these South County residents are not widely aware of available health improvement programs. Only one-third of respondents were familiar with community programs that are intended to improve health in some way. For those who were, the majority mentioned gyms, health clubs, or exercise programs including the YMCA, as places to find health improvement programs. The majority, however, did not participate in these activities. Fewer than half (44.6%) of those who said they knew about these programs, and only 12.9% of the total sample actually participated in health programs. Participation was not related to income.

When asked about programs that can help people become healthier, positive responses ranged from 20.4% in North Port to 42.3% in Englewood and 47.9% in LOVN. These figures show that more than half of community residents are unaware of programs in their communities that can help them become healthier. These figures speak to the need for more education and awareness of available programs to promote wellness.

Do you know of any programs in your community that can help you become healthier?

	FREQUENCY	PERCENT
Yes	260	36.2
No	459	63.8

Do you ever participate in health programs?

	FREQUENCY	PERCENT
Yes	95	44.6
No	118	55.4

**Do you know of any programs in your community that can help you become healthier?
By CHAT Area**

	Englewood		North Port		LOVN	
	FREQUENCY	PERCENT	FREQUENCY	PERCENT	FREQUENCY	PERCENT
Yes	74	42.3	56	20.4	127	47.9
No	101	57.7	218	79.6	138	52.1
Total	175	100	274	100	265	100
Missing	1	.	10	.	4	.

Fewer than 32.3% of respondents were aware of clinics that provide medical care to people who do not have health insurance. These responses varied widely from community to community. Fewer than 15% of North Port respondents, as compared to 23.1% of Englewood respondents and 32.2% of LOVN respondents, were aware of clinics for the uninsured.

Do you know of any programs clinics that treat people who do not have health insurance or money to pay for health care?

	FREQUENCY	PERCENT
Yes	34	20.7
No	130	79.3

Do you know of any clinics that treat people who do not have health insurance or money to pay? By CHAT

	Englewood		North Port		LOVN	
	FREQUENCY	PERCENT	FREQUENCY	PERCENT	FREQUENCY	PERCENT
Yes	6	23.1	9	14.8	10	32.3
No	20	76.9	52	85.2	21	67.7
Total	26	100	61	100	31	100
Missing	150	.	223	.	238	.

Needed Health Education Services

Respondents were asked what health education services were needed in the community. A sizeable proportion (44.9%) thought that health education and wellness services were needed in the community. Among the type of programs suggested were a variety of nutrition and exercise programs, free clinics and other sources of low-cost health care, prevention programs targeted toward diabetes, cancer, HIV/AIDS, drug use and other health concerns. Some people focused on populations of particular concern. Most frequently cited populations were children and the elderly, but respondents also mentioned women and teens as groups with specific needs for health education and wellness services.



Needs of Special Populations

When the CHAT members were developing this survey, all three communities were interested in the needs of special populations, such as the elderly, their care takers, and uninsured children and families. The following questions provide some information on the needs of these special populations.

Health Needs of Seniors

We asked if respondents have an elderly family member either living with them or in the community. Just over 22 percent of respondents have an elderly family member living close by. Roughly the same proportion of respondents in all CHAT communities (21%-23%) reported having elderly family members living with them or living in the community.

Do you have an elderly family member living with you or in this community?

	FREQUENCY	PERCENT
Yes	163	22.4
No	564	77.6

Do you have an elderly family member living with you or in this community? By CHAT Area

	Englewood		North Port		LOVN	
	FREQUENCY	PERCENT	FREQUENCY	PERCENT	FREQUENCY	PERCENT
Yes	37	21.1	63	22.3	62	23.4
No	138	78.9	219	77.7	203	76.6
Total	175	100	282	100	265	100
Missing	1	.	2	.	4	.

We asked respondents who have an elderly family member nearby if they had had any problems getting medical care for this family member. The majority of respondents reported no trouble getting health care for this elderly family member. But between 11% and 15% of respondents reported that they had had some difficulties obtaining medical care. For those who had, most report that the cost of medications has posed the greatest problem. And, for some (6.9%) it is a nursing home or care at home that is unaffordable. When asked if family member needed nursing home care but was unable to afford it, only 11.6% of North Port residents and 4.5% of LOVN respondents reported that this was a problem. No Englewood respondents reported this as a problem.

Have you ever had problems getting health care or medications for this family member?

	FREQUENCY	PERCENT
Yes	21	12.8
No	143	87.2

Does this family member need a nursing home or home care but is unable to afford it?

	FREQUENCY	PERCENT
Yes	12	6.9
No	152	86.9
Don't know	9	5.1

**If yes, have you ever had problems getting
health care or meds for this elderly family member? By CHAT Area**

	Englewood		North Port		LOVN	
	FREQUENCY	PERCENT	FREQUENCY	PERCENT	FREQUENCY	PERCENT
Yes	4	11.1	10	14.9	7	11.7
No	32	88.9	57	85.1	53	88.3
Total	36	100	67	100	60	100
Missing	140	.	217	.	209	.

**If yes, does this elderly family member need a
Nursing home or home care but is unable to afford it? By CHAT Area**

	Englewood		North Port		LOVN	
	FREQUENCY	PERCENT	FREQUENCY	PERCENT	FREQUENCY	PERCENT
Yes	0	0	8	11.6	3	4.5
No	38	97.4	55	79.7	59	89.4
Don't know / Refused	1	2.6	6	8.6	4	6
Total	39	100	69	100	66	100
Missing	137	.	215	.	203	.

Respite Care

For residents who provide in-home care for elderly or disabled family members, caregiver fatigue is another common issue reported. Fortunately, many local agencies offer respite care services. However, relatively few respondents were aware of the availability of respite care services. Only 31.3% of all respondents are familiar with these types of services. Those who have elderly family members close by are only slightly more familiar with these services. Forty percent of this group had heard of respite care. When asked if they were aware of any caregiver support services in their community, only 17.2% of North Port respondents and as many as 45.8% of LOVN respondents were aware of such services. This range in responses may reflect the availability of services as well as the awareness of services.

Are you aware of any support or respite services for caregivers?

	FREQUENCY	PERCENT
Yes	214	31.3
No	434	63.5

Are you aware of any support or respite services for caregivers? By CHAT Area

	Englewood		North Port		LOVN	
	FREQUENCY	PERCENT	FREQUENCY	PERCENT	FREQUENCY	PERCENT
Yes	48	32.4	48	17.2	116	45.8
No	85	57.4	216	77.4	132	52.2
Don't know	15	10.1	15	5.4	5	2
Total	148	100	279	100	253	100
Missing	28	.	5	.	16	.

Hospice Care

Hospice services are in-home or in-facility services for residents who are near the end of life. They also provide support to family members. We asked respondents if they were familiar with Hospice services. A large proportion of respondents were familiar with Hospice care. More than three-quarters of all respondents were familiar with hospice care. Fewer respondents in North Port than in the other communities were aware of hospice services: only 68.1% of North Port respondents compared to 84.3% in LOVN and 87.4% in Englewood.

Are you familiar with hospice services?

	FREQUENCY	PERCENT
Yes	574	78.8
No	154	21.2

Are you familiar with hospice services? By CHAT Area

	Englewood		North Port		LOVN	
	FREQUENCY	PERCENT	FREQUENCY	PERCENT	FREQUENCY	PERCENT
Yes	152	87.4	192	68.1	225	84.3
No	22	12.6	90	31.9	42	15.7
Total	174	100	282	100	267	100
Missing	2	.	2	.	2	.

Health Care for Mothers and Children

Concerning care for children and pregnant women, we asked respondents if they had children in the home, did they have any trouble getting health care for them. Overall, thirty percent of respondents with children have had problems getting health care for their children. The data by community show that 49.6% of North Port respondents, 65.8% of LOVN respondents and 82.8% of Englewood respondents did not have children in the home. Of those respondents who did have children in the home, 30.5% had trouble getting health care for their children. Residents of the LOVN communities were least likely to have trouble (6.2%), while residents of North Port were most likely (12.9%).

Do you have any trouble getting healthcare for the children in this home?

	FREQUENCY	PERCENT
Yes	57	30.5
No	127	67.9
Don't know	2	1.1
Refused	1	0.5

If you have children living in the home do you have any trouble getting health care for them? By CHAT Area

	Englewood		North Port		LOVN	
	FREQUENCY	PERCENT	FREQUENCY	PERCENT	FREQUENCY	PERCENT
Yes	14	8.1	36	12.9	16	6.2
No	32	18.5	101	36.3	72	27.7
Don't know / Refused	1	0.6	3	1.1	1	0.4
Total	47	100	140	100	89	100
Missing	128	.	144	.	180	.

Prenatal and Pediatric Care for Infants

Because obstetric services have been reduced in the County in recent years, we asked residents about their experiences getting prenatal care. Overall this question was relevant to 49 survey respondents, representing 7.5% of households with a member who had been pregnant in the past two years. The proportions ranged from 5.1% in LOVN and 11.5% in North Port. Most women reported very few problems obtaining prenatal care. Slightly higher proportions of respondents who had a recent birth reported difficulties in getting their infant pediatric care: 5 residents in Englewood, but only 1 in Englewood and LOVN reported this. [Note: due to the small sample sizes, these data should be interpreted with caution].



Has anyone in the household had a baby in the past 2 years?

	FREQUENCY	PERCENT
Yes	49	7.5
No	605	92.5

Were there any problems getting prenatal care for the baby?

	FREQUENCY	PERCENT
Yes	4	8.5
No	43	91.5

Were there any problems getting pediatric care for the baby?

	FREQUENCY	PERCENT
Yes	2	4.4
No	40	88.9
Don't know	3	6.6

Has anyone in your household had a baby in the past 2 years? By CHAT Area

	Englewood		North Port		LOVN	
	FREQUENCY	PERCENT	FREQUENCY	PERCENT	FREQUENCY	PERCENT
Yes	9	5.3	28	11.5	12	5.1
No	160	94.7	215	88.5	225	94.9
Total	169	100	243	100	237	100
Missing	7	.	41	.	32	.

Of those who had a baby recently, did the pregnant household member have trouble getting prenatal care? By CHAT Area

	Englewood		North Port		LOVN	
	FREQUENCY	PERCENT	FREQUENCY	PERCENT	FREQUENCY	PERCENT
Yes	1	16.7	2	6.3	1	11.1
No	5	83.3	30	93.8	8	88.9
Total	6	100	32	100	9	100
Missing	170	.	252	.	260	.

Of those who had a baby recently, were there any problems getting pediatric care for the baby? By CHAT Area

	Englewood		North Port		LOVN	
	FREQUENCY	PERCENT	FREQUENCY	PERCENT	FREQUENCY	PERCENT
Yes	5	100	1	3	1	14.3
No	0	0	29	87.9	6	85.7
Don't know / Refused	0	0	3	9.1	0	0
Total	0	0	33	100	7	100
Missing	171	.	251	.	262	.

Transportation

All three CHATs have identified public transportation as one of the top issues of concern to their community. Therefore, with the assistance of SCAT staff, a set of questions were developed to assess public transportation needs in these communities

Vehicles and Shared Transportation

First we asked how many vehicles were available for transportation to health care. Just over 84% of households surveyed have at least one vehicles available for transportation to health care. Four percent of these households have no vehicles they can use to get to their doctor's office. Fewer than 2% of Englewood respondents, 5% of North Port respondents and 4.2% of LOVN respondents had no vehicles available. Just under one half to more than 63% of households had two or more vehicles, while another 32% to 49.7% in had one vehicle. More than 30% of respondents reported sharing transportation on a regular basis. Across the CHATS, more than 25% of respondents reported that they shared transportation on a daily basis, with just over 32% of respondents in Englewood and North Port reporting shared transportation.

How many vehicles do you or a household member have available for transportation to health care?

	FREQUENCY	PERCENT
0	28	3.9
1	298	41.5
2	308	42.9
3 or more	67	11.7

Do you share this transportation with a family member or friend on a daily basis (carpool, regular rides to work, etc)

	FREQUENCY	PERCENT
Yes	202	30.1
No	469	69.8
Refused	1	0.1

How many vehicles do you or a household member have available for transportation to health care?

	Englewood		North Port		LOVN	
	FREQUENCY	PERCENT	FREQUENCY	PERCENT	FREQUENCY	PERCENT
0	3	1.7	13	4.8	11	4.2
1	80	45.5	87	32	129	48.7
2 or more	93	52.8	172	63.2	125	47.1
Total	176	100	272	100	265	100
Missing	0	.	12	.	4	.

Do you share this transportation with a family member or friend on a daily basis (carpool, regular rides to work, etc)?

	Englewood		North Port		LOVN	
	FREQUENCY	PERCENT	FREQUENCY	PERCENT	FREQUENCY	PERCENT
Yes	55	32.9	85	32.7	62	25.7
No	112	67.1	174	66.9	179	74.3
Refused	0	.	1	0.4	0	0
Total	167	100	260	100	241	100
Missing	9	.	24	.	28	.

Transportation to Providers in Another Community

Transportation is most critical for residents who have to travel long distances to get to their health care provider. We asked respondents if they went to a doctor in another community for their primary care. More than one third of respondents (37.6%) leave their communities to receive primary care. These “leavers” travel to Sarasota (32.8%), Venice (23.9%), Port Charlotte (22.1%), or some “other” place. These “other” places are frequently out of state. These figures varied notably across the communities. While only 25.9% of LOVN area residents reported that they went to another community for primary care, 31% of Englewood residents and 55.9% of North Port residents reported leaving their communities for care. These figures reflect the frequent use of Charlotte County hospitals by North Port residents.

In what other community do you see your primary care doctor?

	FREQUENCY	PERCENT
Sarasota	95.0	32.8
Venice	73.0	25.2
Port Charlotte	62	21.4
Englewood	25	8.6
Osprey	12	4.1
Punta Gorda	8.0	2.8
North Port	5	1.7
Nokomis	2	0.7
Ft Myers	1	0.3
Laurel	1	0.3
Murdock	1	0.3
Other	25.0	8.6

Do you go to a doctor for primary care in another community?

	Englewood		North Port		LOVN	
	FREQUENCY	PERCENT	FREQUENCY	PERCENT	FREQUENCY	PERCENT
Yes	54	31	151	55.9	69	25.9
No	120	69	119	44.1	197	74.1
Total	174	100	270	100	266	100
Missing	2	.	14	.	3	.

Reasons for Going to Providers in Another Community

Preference for a particular provider is the primary reason people travel out of their community for care. Forty-one percent of those who leave their community do so because they like the provider or because they believe the provider has more expertise. For 14%, an insurance company dictates the choice of primary care physician and, for others, reasons for leaving included not having changed doctors after a move and proximity to a workplace.

The data by community show that between 21% and one-third of respondents reported that they liked the providers in another community better. Another 25% to 50%, the next largest group of respondents reported “other” reasons for using a physician in another community. Between 7% and 25% of respondents reported that they thought the physicians had better expertise or experience, and between 10 and 17% of respondents reported that their health insurance company required them to use their provider.

Why do you go to another community for primary care?

	FREQUENCY	PERCENT
Like the provider better	79	27.0
Provider has better expertise or experience	41	14.0
Have to go to a provider in my insurance plan	43	14.7
Don't know	9	3.1
Other	119	40.6

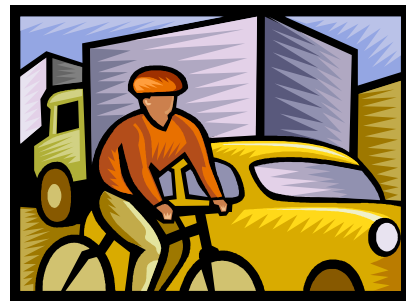
Why do you go to another community for primary care? By CHAT Area

	Englewood		North Port		LOVN	
	FREQUENCY	PERCENT	FREQUENCY	PERCENT	FREQUENCY	PERCENT
Like the provider better	20	35.7	35	21	24	35.3
Provider has better expertise or experience	14	25	13	7.8	12	17.6
Have to go to a provider in my insurance plan	7	12.5	29	17.4	7	10.3
Don't know / Refused	0	0	7	4.2	4	5.9
Other	15	26.8	83	49.7	21	30.9
Total	56	100	167	100	68	100
Missing	120	.	117	.	201	.

Because CHIP is focused on health care issues, we asked participants how they traveled to their health care provider's office. Ninety-six percent of respondents travel to see their provider by car driven by themselves or a family member. Fewer than half of 1 percent takes public transportation (bus) to their provider's office.

How do you get to this provider's office?

	FREQUENCY	PERCENT
Drive myself	515	89.7
Family member drives me	36	6.3
Bus	2	0.3
Cab	3	0.5
Walk	2	0.3
Don't know	2	0.3
Other	14	2.4



Transportation to Provider's Office

Lower income respondents are less likely to drive to their doctor's office. Only 78.5% of those with income below \$25,000 drive themselves (compared to 98.3% of those with incomes above \$55,000). Respondents with lower incomes are more likely to have a family member drive (11.8%) and are alone in reporting that they walk or take public transportation to visit their doctor.

How do you get to this provider's office? By Income Category

	< \$25,000		\$25,000 - \$55,000		> \$55,000	
	FREQUENCY	PERCENT	FREQUENCY	PERCENT	FREQUENCY	PERCENT
Drive myself	113	78.5	215	91.5	118	98.3
Family member drives me	17	11.8	17	7.2	0	0
Bus	2	1.4	0	0	0	0
Cab	3	2.1	0	0	0	0
Walk	1	.7	0	0	0	0
Don't know	1	.7	0	0	0	0
Other	7	4.9	3	1.3	3	1.7

While most people drive themselves to their doctor's appointment, 1 in 10 have used public transportation at least one time in the past and more than one-third say they would use public transportation if services were provided closer to home (37.7%) or available more regularly to the places they needed to go (33.1%).

Have you ever used public transportation to get to a healthcare appointment?

	FREQUENCY	PERCENT
Yes	77	10.6
No	651	89.3
Refused	1	0.1

Would you use it if more routes came near your home?

	FREQUENCY	PERCENT
Yes	271	37.7
No	370	51.5
Don't know / Refused	77	10.7

Use of Public Transportation

Lower income respondents are more likely to use public transportation than higher income respondents and it appears that this would remain the case even with modifications designed to increase convenience to all. While more than half (53.2%) of low-income respondents and 33% of middle income subjects reported they would use public transportation if more routes were made available near their home, fewer than one-third of those making more than \$55,000 say the same.

Percent reporting actual and conditional use of public transport to reach healthcare by income category

	< \$25,000		\$25,000 - \$55,000		> \$55,000	
	FREQUENCY	PERCENT	FREQUENCY	PERCENT	FREQUENCY	PERCENT
Have used public transport to get to health care	35	17.9	26	9.2	9	12.9
Would use public transport if more convenient	100	53.2	93	33.5	47	31.1

When asked about their use of public transportation, between 4% and 12.7% of respondents have used public transportation to get to a health care appointment. Residents of North Port and LOVN were equally likely to have used public transportation to get to medical care (12.7%).

Have you ever used public transportation to get to a healthcare appointment? By CHAT Area

	Englewood		North Port		LOVN	
	FREQUENCY	PERCENT	FREQUENCY	PERCENT	FREQUENCY	PERCENT
Yes	7	4	36	12.7	34	12.7
No	166	96	247	87	233	87.3
Refused			1	0.4		
Total	173	100	284	100	267	100
Missing	3	.	0	.	2	.

To assess what proportion of residents might use public transportation if more was available, we asked respondents who did not currently use transportation if more routes came nearer to their home. Between 35% and 41% of all respondents reported yes, with North Port respondents most likely to report using public transportation at 31.3%. Another group of respondents (between 8% and 11%) reported that they didn't know (or refused to answer) if they would use public transportation.

If you do not currently use public transportation, would you use it if more routes came near your home?

	FREQUENCY	PERCENT
Yes	271	37.7
No	370	51.5
Don't know / Refused	77	10.7

If you do not currently use public transportation, would you use it if more routes came near your home? By CHAT Area

	Englewood		North Port		LOVN	
	FREQUENCY	PERCENT	FREQUENCY	PERCENT	FREQUENCY	PERCENT
Yes	62	35.8	117	41.3	91	35.4
No	92	53.2	129	45.6	145	56.4
Don't know / Refused	19	11	37	13.1	21	8.2
Total	173	100	283	100	257	100
Missing	3	.	1	.	12	.

Paying for Public Transportation

Most people (51.8%) would prefer to pay for public transportation one (50¢) trip at a time. Nearly one-fifth say they would like to pay \$30 for an unlimited monthly pass. And, though 11.4% did not know how they would like to pay, only 2% say they would not use bus service regardless of the available payment method.

When examined by CHAT area, the same proportion of respondents in all communities (51%-52%) reported that they would pay \$.50 per trip. Between 7% and 17% said they would buy a \$10 pass for 20 trips, while a larger proportion (12%-28%) would buy a \$30 pass for an unlimited number of trips; respondents from Englewood were most likely to select this option (28.1%) following by North Port (21.3%) and LOVN (12.3%) respondents.

How would you want to pay for bus service?

	FREQUENCY	PERCENT
Pay per trip (50¢/trip)	155	51.8
Pay for 20 trips (\$10)	35	11.7
Purchase an unlimited monthly pass (\$30)	57	19.1
Would not use	6	2.0
Don't know / Refused	36	12.1
Other	10	3.3

How would you want to pay for bus service? By CHAT Area

	Englewood		North Port		LOVN	
	FREQUENCY	PERCENT	FREQUENCY	PERCENT	FREQUENCY	PERCENT
Pay per trip (50¢/trip)	30	52.6	65	51.2	59	51.8
Pay for 20 trips (\$10)	7	12.3	9	7.1	19	16.7
Purchase an unlimited monthly pass (\$30)	16	28.1	27	21.3	14	12.3
Would not use	1	1.8	2	1.6	3	2.6
Don't know / Refused	3	5.3	20	15.8	13	11.4
Other	0	0	4	3.1	6	5.3
Total	57	100	127	100	114	100
Missing	119	.	157	.	155	.

Public transportation is a service that is rarely self-supporting and typically must be supplemented by public dollars. We asked residents if they thought \$10 was too much to pay in property taxes annually for public transportation. The majority of those surveyed (58.6%) do not think that a \$10 tax increase is too much to pay for public transportation. In fact, about half (51.5%) are willing to pay between \$10 and \$20 for substantially increased services. The data by CHAT area show that Englewood respondents were most likely to respond no (65.7%), following LOVN (60.6%) and North Port (52.2%) respondents. Another 11% to 17% reported that “they did not know” if this amount was too much to pay. Between 21% and 30% reported that they thought \$10 per year was too much to pay for public transportation.

Do you think \$10 per household in property tax is too much to pay for public transportation?

	FREQUENCY	PERCENT
Yes	195	27.6
No	414	58.6
Don't know	98	13.9

Do you think \$10 per household in property tax is too much to pay for public transportation? By CHAT Area

	Englewood		North Port		LOVN	
	FREQUENCY	PERCENT	FREQUENCY	PERCENT	FREQUENCY	PERCENT
Yes	37	21.5	85	30.8	72	28.3
No	113	65.7	144	52.2	154	60.6
Don't know	22	12.8	47	17	28	11
Total	172	100	276	100	254	100
Missing	4	.	8	.	15	.

This willingness to pay extra for public transportation is, however, conditioned on income. Higher income individuals are considerably less likely to think that \$10 is too much to pay than those in lower income households.

Do you think \$10 per household in property tax is too much to pay for public transportation? By Income Category

	< \$25,000		\$25,000 - \$55,000		> \$55,000	
	FREQUENCY	PERCENT	FREQUENCY	PERCENT	FREQUENCY	PERCENT
Yes	67	35.6	72	25.9	31	20.7
No	94	50.0	171	61.5	103	68.7
Don't know	27	14.4	35	12.6	16	10.7

We then asked those who thought \$10 was not too much for pay for transportation what they would be willing to pay on an annual basis for improvements in public transportation. Between 27% (in North Port) and 39% of respondents reported that they would pay \$10 more to get (roughly) twice the amount of services, and another 12.6% in LOVN to 24% in Englewood reported that they would pay an additional \$20 more per year to get three times the amount of services. Another large proportion of respondents, 32.8% and 32.5% in Englewood and LOVN, respectively, to 44.8% in North Port “didn’t know” what they would be willing to pay for improved transportation.

Would you be willing to pay more in property tax to have improved public transportation?

	FREQUENCY	PERCENT
\$10 for twice the amount of services	145	34.4
\$20 for 3X the amount of services	72	17.1
Don't know	157	37.2
Other	48	11.4
Missing	311	.

Would you be willing to pay more in property tax to have improved public transportation?

	Englewood		North Port		LOVN	
	FREQUENCY	PERCENT	FREQUENCY	PERCENT	FREQUENCY	PERCENT
\$10 for twice the amt of services	40	38.5	44	27	59	39.1
\$20 for 3X the amt of services	25	24	27	16.6	19	12.6
Don't know	34	32.7	73	44.8	49	32.5
Other	5	4.8	19	11.7	24	15.9
Total	104	100	163	100	151	100
Missing/answered yes to above	72	.	121	.	118	.

HOSPITAL USE

General

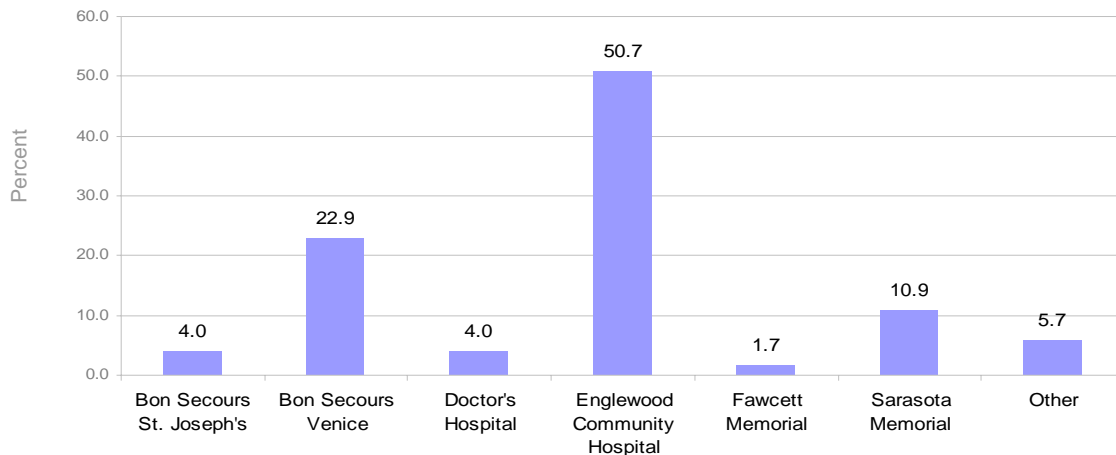
To understand patterns of health care utilization, respondents were asked what hospital they use or would use if they needed hospitalization. Overall, the largest proportion of respondents reported that they would use Bon Secours Venice Hospital if they needed hospitalization. Others reported using Bon Secours St. Joseph's Hospital (12.7%), Englewood Community Hospital (16.2%), and Sarasota Memorial Hospital (18%). Only 6.7% selected Fawcett Memorial and even fewer (4.1%) selected Doctor's Hospital.

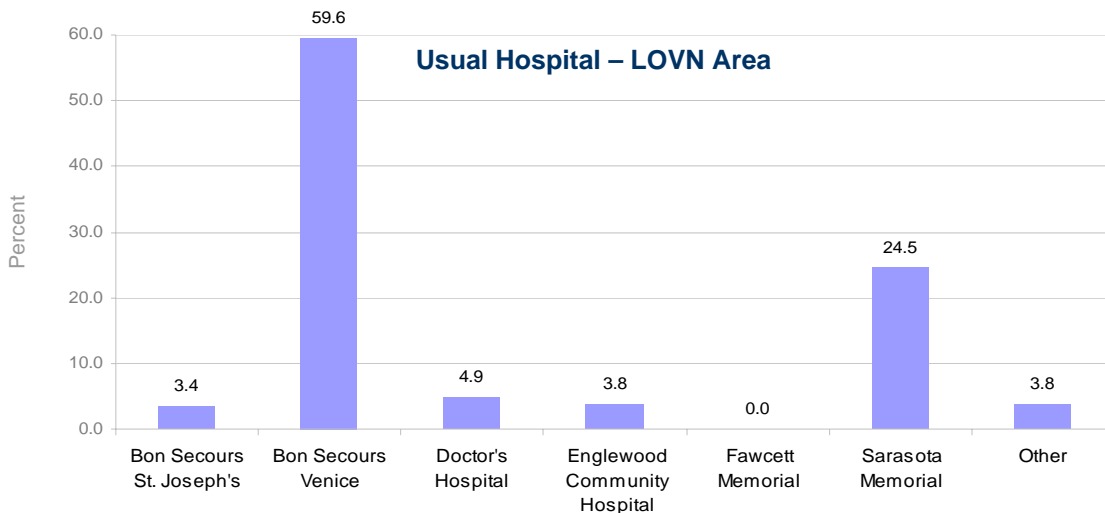
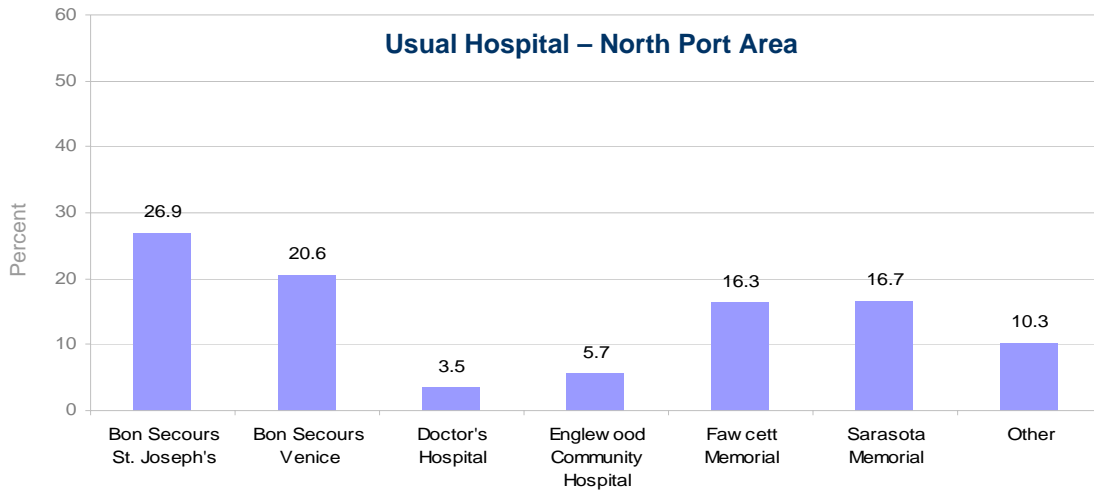
When broken down by community of residents (see charts below), the data show that most residents use the hospital that is in their community or the closest to them. For example, the majority of Englewood residents (50.7%) reported that they use or would use Englewood Community Hospital, followed by those who used Bon Secours Venice Hospital (22.93%) and Sarasota Memorial (10.9%). North Port residents were most likely to chose Bon Secours St. Joseph's (26.9%), followed by those who would use Bon Secours Venice Hospital (20.6%), Sarasota Memorial Hospital (16.7%) and Fawcett Memorial Hospital (16.3%). Another 10.3% of respondents reported that they would use another hospital, possibly Charlotte Regional Hospital. Among LOVN CHAT community members, the majority used Bon Secours Venice Hospital (59.6%), followed by Sarasota Memorial Hospital (24.5%). A small percentage used Doctors Hospital (4.9%) and Englewood Community Hospital (3.8%).

Which hospital do you usually use or would you use if you needed hospitalization?

	FREQUENCY	PERCENT
Bon Secours St Joseph's	92	12.7
Bon Secours Venice	258	35.5
Doctor's	30	4.1
Englewood community	118	16.2
Fawcett Memorial	49	6.7
Sarasota Memorial	131	18.0
Other	49	6.7

Usual Hospital – Englewood Area





The most frequently cited reason for hospital selection is proximity to the hospital (selected by 38.2% of the sample). More than 20% of the respondents reported that their hospital preference is based on either an insurance requirement or their physician’s affiliation with the hospital selected. A similar proportion (19.6%) selected their hospital because they think it is “the best around.”

The data by CHAT area again show that the largest proportion of respondents selected the hospital was closest to their home (44.3% in Englewood, 23.1% in North Port and 49.8% in LOVN. These proportions were followed by those who reported that they think the hospital is the “best around”: 21.1% in Englewood, 19% in North Port and 18.8% in LOVN. Other respondents reported that their doctor was associated with the hospital (10.9% in Englewood, and 19.3% in North Port), or other reasons.

Why do you use this hospital?

	FREQUENCY	PERCENT
It is closest to my home	269	38.2
I think it is the best around	138	19.6
My doctor is associated with it	99	14.0
Health plan requires it	50	7.1
Family or friends work there	16	2.3
Ambulance takes me there	9	1.3
Don't know	11	1.6
Other	113	16.0



Reason for Choosing Hospital by CHAT Area

	ENGLEWOOD		NORTH PORT		LOVN	
	FREQUENCY	PERCENT	FREQUENCY	PERCENT	FREQUENCY	PERCENT
It is closest to my home	77	44.3	62	23.1	128	49.8
I think it is the best around	37	21.3	51	19.0	48	18.7
My doctor is associated with it	19	10.9	52	19.3	27	10.5
Health plan requires it	10	5.8	25	9.3	15	5.8
Family or friends work there	2	1.2	14	5.2	0	.
Ambulance takes me there	2	1.2	5	1.9	2	0.8
Don't know	1	0.6	10	3.7	0	.
Other	26	14.9	50	18.6	37	14.4
All	174	100.0	269	100.0	257	100.0
Missing	1	.	15	.	13	.

To determine what proportion of hospitals used were the closest to respondents, we asked if the hospital used was the closest to their home. For nearly 60% of those surveyed the hospital of choice was the hospital closest to their home.

Is this the closest hospital to your home?

	FREQUENCY	PERCENT
Yes	414	59.6
No	259	37.3
Don't know	22	3.2

Is this the closest hospital to your home? By CHAT Area

	Englewood		North Port		LOVN	
	FREQUENCY	PERCENT	FREQUENCY	PERCENT	FREQUENCY	PERCENT
Yes	100	58.8	149	55.4	161	64.1
No	69	40.6	104	38.7	85	33.9
Don't know	1	0.6	16	5.9	5	2
Total	170	100	269	100	251	100
Missing	6	.	15	.	18	.

Half of those who did not choose the closest hospital reported that they choose it because they “like it better.” Another 16% reported that their insurance company required that they use a more distant hospital. Others said the ambulance takes them there and still others did not know why they used the particular hospital. The data by CHAT region also show that between 55% and 64% of respondents were using the hospital that was the closest to their home.

Why do you use this hospital instead of the closest?

	FREQUENCY	PERCENT
Like the Provider Better	24	35.3
Provider has more expertise/experience	12	17.6
Have to go to a provider in my insurance plan	7	10.3
Don't know / Refused	4	5.9
Other	21	30.9

Why do you use this hospital instead of the closest? By CHAT Area

	Englewood		North Port		LOVN	
	FREQUENCY	PERCENT	FREQUENCY	PERCENT	FREQUENCY	PERCENT
Like the Provider Better	24	35.3	20	35.7	35	21
Provider has more expertise/experience	12	17.6	14	25	13	7.8
Have to go to a provider in my insurance plan	7	10.3	7	12.5	29	17.4
Don't know / Refused	4	5.9	0	0	7	4.2
Other	21	30.9	15	26.8	83	49.7

Emergency Room Use

Emergency room use for non-emergency services is costly to patients and insurance companies and can lead to delays in care for those most in need of emergency services. Often, this is the only way uninsured residents can access health care services. To assess the extent of this type of utilization, we asked respondents if they had ever used a hospital emergency room for a non-emergency problem. Nearly 14% report that someone in their family used the ER for non-emergency care in the past year. Approximately one-third of those who used the ER for a non-emergency did so because the doctor's office was closed. And, despite reporting that the circumstance for seeking care was not an emergency, one-quarter of the respondents cited the severity of the illness or trauma as the reason for using the ER. Nearly 5% of those surveyed report using the ER because they do not have a family doctor.

Have you or a family member used a hospital emergency room for non-emergency care in the past year?

	FREQUENCY	PERCENT
Yes	98	13.7
No	615	86.3

Why did you use the emergency room for care?

	FREQUENCY	PERCENT
Severity of illness/trauma	23	25.8
Walkin clinics/doctors office not open	29	32.6
Do not trust walk in clinic	1	1.1
Do not have family doctor	4	4.5
Don't know/Other	32	35.9

Emergency Room Use by CHAT Area

The data by CHAT area show that between 11.4% of respondents in North Port and 16.9% in LOVN report using the emergency room for non-urgent care. When asked why they used the emergency room, between 17.2% and 31.8% reported because of the severity of the illness or trauma. However, when we looked at the type of illness or trauma reported, few were serious enough to have required the ER. Another 2.7% to 6.9% reported the use of the ER because they did not have a family doctor. Another small percentage reported that they did not know why they used the ER.

Have you or a family member used a hospital emergency room for non-emergency care in the past year? By CHAT Area

	Englewood		North Port		LOVN	
	FREQUENCY	PERCENT	FREQUENCY	PERCENT	FREQUENCY	PERCENT
Yes	22	12.6	31	11.4	44	16.9
No	152	87.4	242	88.6	217	83.1
Total	174	100	273	100	261	100
Missing	2	.	11	.	8	.

Why did you use the emergency room for care? By CHAT Area

	Englewood		North Port		LOVN	
	FREQUENCY	PERCENT	FREQUENCY	PERCENT	FREQUENCY	PERCENT
Severity of illness/trauma	7	31.8	5	17.2	11	29.7
Do not have family doctor	1	4.5	2	6.9	1	2.7
Don't know	0	0	2	6.9	3	8.1
Other	5	22.7	8	27.6	14	37.8
Total	22	100	29	100	37	100
Missing/did not use the ER	154	.	255	.	232	.

COMMUNITY INPUT AND INVOLVEMENT

Interest in community efforts to improve health is high. More than half of these respondents say they would get involved with a group working to make improvements to health care in their community.

Would you get involved with a group improving health care in your community?

	FREQUENCY	PERCENT
Yes	397	55.1
No	181	25.1
Don't know / Refused	143	19.9

Survey respondents were asked what they think should be done to improve health care in the community. The following quotes highlights some of the many responses.

What should be done to improve health care in the community?

\$10 for better bus service ▪ require all doctors to take Medicaid ▪ change the politics ▪ create an association to check on people who are alone ▪ bring more doctors in ▪ socialize medicine ▪ Charlotte County should provide information on what medical services are available ▪ the city commission should seek a grant to provide emergency services ▪ the community should be more aware ▪ have congress take care of it ▪ get the word out on what's available ▪ have more incentives to secure better doctors ▪ in a matter of time things will solve themselves ▪ make senior care living affordable ▪ provide more affordable dental care ▪ provide county water to everyone ▪ raise taxes ▪ SCAT needs to make more routes available in Englewood ▪ provide more health for poor people ▪ create more group homes and day treatment centers ▪ set up a medical access/availability hotline ▪ build more sidewalks ▪ create parent support groups ▪ get rid of junk food in schools ▪ make translators available in doctors' offices ▪ provide more activities for the elderly ▪ set up services to check on people who are confined to their homes ▪ get more people involved ▪ universal healthcare ▪ improve transportation ▪ impose a tax to cover medical expenses ▪ build a hospital ▪ catch the mosquitoes ▪ have a meeting with doctors to discuss building a clinic ▪ try to get drug companies to bring costs down ▪ create a birthing center at Venice Hospital ▪ focus more media attention on local health issues ▪ stop building businesses and build a hospital ▪ sliding scale fees ▪ make people more aware that it's deadly to be overweight ▪ make flyers ▪ improve community awareness ▪ create a free clinic ▪ purchase drugs from Canada ▪ go door-to-door and get information ▪ bolster prevention efforts ▪ do more than talk about it ▪ provide more health education to young people ▪ improve services for the disabled ▪ provide more things for kids and teens to do ▪ see that health information is made available in newspapers ▪ schools should send home newsletters with health information so that parents would know what's available ▪ drop medicare enrollment age to 62 ▪ educate older people on transportation options ▪ lower the salaries for medical professionals ▪ provide a low cost clinic for uninsured ▪ start using more tax money to ameliorate community health problems ▪ stop giving people pills all of the time ▪ hire more visiting nurses ▪ make more services available on a local level ▪ yoga ▪ share findings across research groups ▪ offer more affordable dental care ▪ enhance health marketing in North Port ▪ create a directory of local doctors and credentials ▪ enhance services to help those who are suicidal ▪ lobby local, state and federal governments ▪

use Florida lottery money to improve health care in the state ▪ build more health facilities ▪ offer more health screening opportunities ▪ conduct research ▪ make more counseling services available ▪ place more emphasis on preventative medicine ▪ lower the markup on medications ▪ increase salaries for nurses and doctors so that they'll stay in the area ▪ foster networking between healthcare providers ▪
reduce the use of fertilizers and pesticides

