SCOPE

2015 COMMUNITY REPORT CARD

SCOPE

Connecting and inspiring citizens to create a better community.

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ENGAGE ● ANALYZE ● REPORT

SCOPE

Connecting and inspiring citizens to create a better community.

2014 SCOPE Community Report Card

Project Team

Project Lead: Laurel Corrao
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Administrative Support: Maureen Hadden

About SCOPE

Seeking a better way to address emergent issues, community leaders in Sarasota County sought a means to bring greater civility to community discourse and public policy discussions. Finding a non-profit model in the *Jacksonville Community Council Inc.*, our founders created *Sarasota County Openly Plans for Excellence* (SCOPE) to harness both objective data and the wisdom of our residents to enhance the quality of life and development of the entire County.

Since its founding in 2001, SCOPE has convened study groups, produced data rich *Community Report Cards,* and has developed citizen leadership through the *Grass Roots Leadership Initiative*. SCOPE has delved into issues such as race and ethnicity, transportation, and aging with dignity and independence. As a result of SCOPE's work with aging, the *Institute for The Ages* was created.

Throughout its history, SCOPE has been a consultant to foundations, non-profits and local government. This work has allowed a deeper understanding of our community. SCOPE continues to serve as a consultant, bringing together the wisdom of people – with objective community data - to serve the specific needs of clients. Through this work we help others achieve their goals – while embracing our mission *"to connect and inspire citizens to create a better community."*

The SCOPE team would like to give a special thank you to the following Sarasota County residents for participating in our peer review groups for the 2014 Community Report Card.

Ken Alexander
Sarasota Memorial Health System

Wayne R. Applebee
Director of Homeless Services
Sarasota County Health and Human Services

Runa Badal
Contracted Human Services Specialist,
Sarasota County Health and Human Services

Jim Bennett
Venice Councilman

Bob Carter
CEO, Senior Friendship Center

Don Hall
Executive Director, *Transition Sarasota*

Jake Hartvigsen
CEO, Brand Underground Marketing
& Communications

Chuck Henry
Executive Director
Sarasota County Health and Human Services

Reverend Deacon Kevin McKenney

Mike McHash
Chair, Sarasota Partnership for Children and Youth

Pam Merlet
Behavioral Health Policy Coordinator
Sarasota County Health and Human Services

Jacquelyn P. Paulk
Retired Sarasota County School Teacher
Seed of Academic Resources (S.O.A.R)

Caitlyn Sanderson
Grassroots Outreach Manager, Planned
Parenthood of Southwest Florida

Paul Sutton
Executive Director,
Sarasota *Coalition on Substance Abuse*

Sue Stewart
CEO, Girl Scouts of Gulfcoast Florida

Pauline Tracy
Human Services Manager
Sarasota County Health and Human Services

Benny Weaver
Chair, Community Alliance
Community Development – Loveland Center

Marsha Weaver
Concerned Citizen, Realtor

Dana Yawn
Case Manager,
Sarasota County Mental Health/Drug Court

Thank you!

Executive Summary

The SCOPE Community Report Card is designed to provide Sarasota County's residents with a compendium of community data. This tool will permit residents to attain a better understanding of what is happening in the community. This report card covers a broad spectrum of indicators which are divided into eight domains, as well as a section covering demographics. These domains include learning, economics, health, social, civic engagement, built environment, natural environment, and culture & recreation. The data illustrate the strengths and weaknesses of Sarasota County, providing for both celebration of our successes and for the construction of corrective actions. Below are a few of the indicators that can be found in the report card.

Demographics

Sarasota County has seen consistent increases in population size yearly. Recent Census data show an increase of 11,000 people from 2010 to 2013. The vast majority of population growth is the result of migration of new residents relocating from elsewhere in the United States.

The median age of Sarasota County residents is 53.3, a full 12 years higher than Florida's population as a whole and almost 16 years higher than the national median age. Sixty percent of our population is over the age of 45 and almost 5% are over the age of 85.

Learning

Sarasota County has a high school graduation rate of 76%, equivalent to that of the State of Florida. The County graduation rates have increased over the past five years from 66% to 76%.

There is a relationship between student academic performance and income, as well as race/ethnicity. In 2012-13, the high school graduation rate for Black students was only 56%, which is lower than the county average. In 2013, 76% of students who were NOT ELIGIBLE for free or reduced price lunch passed the 10th grade FCAT while only 52% of students who were eligible for FRL passed.

Economics

The unemployment rate (7.0% in 2013) is decreasing. However, there is a discrepancy in unemployment rates when controlled for race/ethnicity and age. In 2012, the unemployment rate for people age 20-24 was 23% in Sarasota County.

The consequences of the economic downturn can also be witnessed by the increasing percent of Sarasota County residents living in poverty. At the same time, the county is experiencing an income inequality where a fifth of residents earn about half of the total income. This inequality is similar to the level of income inequality for Florida and the United States.

Health

Overall infant births and deaths have been on the steady decline in Sarasota County for over a decade. A low infant death rate tends to indicate a strong health care system.

The rate of HIV/AIDS in the Sarasota County population have also seen dramatic decreases for more than a decade. The rate of obesity has increased slightly over the past five years, coinciding with an increase in diabetes in older age groups and higher income ranges. Sarasota County's suicide rate for

those persons between the age of 10-19 and again between 65-100 is higher than the overall rate for Florida.

Social

Thanks to well-informed, analytical and strong law enforcement units in Sarasota County, rates of property crimes and violent crimes have declined steadily each year. Motor vehicle safety is increasing as the total number of crashes and motor vehicle fatalities are decreasing.

While rates of violent crime and verified child abuse have declined, the rates of reported Elder Abuse have increased to 124 per 100,000 in 2012-13 and verified child abuse cases in Sarasota County are higher than the Florida average.

Civic Participation

Sarasota County has about 270,000 registered voters. Participating in the democratic process is key to shaping our communities. Voter turnout in the 2012 general election was 75%, but 56% in 2010. The prior general elections, in 2008, saw an 80% voter turnout. Voter turnout in the primary elections have halved in the past decade.

Library use is often cited as an aspect of citizen engagement. County residents are involved with the county library systems. About 75% of residents hold a library card!

Built Environment

The built environment of Sarasota County is growing. Housing density is increasing, predominantly in single family, detached homes. Newly permitted residential units are at its highest in the past five years, although not yet nearing the construction boom in 2005.

As for transportation, about 82% of Sarasota County residents drive alone to work. The overall total number of daily miles traveled per resident has decreased in recent years, while the overall number of SCAT passenger trips have increased.

Natural Environment

The county is also a state leader in overall solid waste recycling rates – recycling almost 50% of solid wastes. Sarasota County has decreased gross water use per capita by about 6% between 2008 and 2013, and residents are conserving more water. Sarasota County takes strides to protect its natural environment, with more than 35,000 acres of environmentally sensitive lands and public ownership.

Culture and Recreation

Sarasota County is a popular destination on the 'creative coast' of Southwest Florida. Faithful investments in public recreation have increased the total number of developed acres, public parks, playgrounds, and athletic fields to be enjoyed by county residents and visitors.

The economic impact of the arts is greater in Sarasota County than the national average or in regions that share similarities. At the same time, the economic impact of the arts in Sarasota County is increasing.

Table of Contents

Total Population
Median Age
Population, by Race/Ethnicity and Age
Hispanic/Latino Population
Birth Place
Ancestry
Language Spoken at Home
Households
Family Size
Civilian Veterans
Disabilities

FAIR-K
ECHOS
Teachers with Advanced Degrees
Annual Teacher Salaries
10th Grade FCAT
3rd Grade FCAT
English Language Learner (ELL) Students
9th-12th Grade Dropout Rates
Student Dropout Rates, by Race/Ethnicity
High School Graduation Rate
High School Graduates Continuing Education

Unemployment Rate
Change in People Employed
Population in Labor Force
Largest Occupations
Annual Mean Wage, by Occupation
Distribution of Income
Per Capita Personal Income
People in Poverty
Households Receiving Food Stamps

INTRODUCTION

SCOPE was established in 2001 to bring *factual information* and *people* closer together through dialogue and engagement to foster planning for excellence in our community. Inspired by the community indicator work done by Jacksonville Community Council Inc., the first SCOPE Community Report Card was published in 2002 with a wide range of demographics and data organized within logical categories, or *domains*. This effort reflects a snapshot of community well-being, providing a broad view of conditions, trends and issues within Sarasota County. Dialogue within peer review groups, focus groups and community workshops enhanced understanding and insight into the region's conditions and well-being.

First published in 2002, the SCOPE Community Report Card was updated in 2005 and in 2008. Shifting gears to take a closer look at how data could be presented, SCOPE engaged in Geographic Information Systems mapping as a way to gain greater detail in our view of community data. In 2012 SCOPE initiated an Engagement Campaign and met with individuals and groups to discuss the value, role and direction of SCOPE. One of the strongest messages heard was "*please bring back the SCOPE Community Report Card*".

In 2013 SCOPE engaged with the community and shared the power of data in a series of High Tech – High Touch Community Workshops. Specifically, we engaged around what aspects of community were important to residents, and a wide range of community indicators were presented for consideration and discussion. The feedback received in these county-wide workshops pointed toward the indicators that participants felt were needed to gain a full understanding of the well-being of Sarasota County as a community.

Taking this community engagement to heart, the SCOPE team went to work harvesting data for inclusion in the SCOPE 2014 Community Report Card. We sought data from many sources to provide a wide perspective of many aspects of community life. With assistance from a panel of peer reviewers, and a team of dedicated staff and volunteers, SCOPE has updated trend lines from prior report cards and added entirely new areas that respond to the interests expressed by the community.

In 2001 when SCOPE created the first Community Report Card, data was the realm of scientists and statisticians. Today, data is everywhere, and yet the challenge today isn't obtaining data, but presenting it in a way that allows everyone to gain an understanding of what is going on in the community. Through this 2014 SCOPE Community Report Card, it is our intent is to put into the hands of the people a framework of data that can be used to better understand what is going on in our community. Some trends call for celebration. Others call for corrective action. Still others may inspire community solutions to issues that are emerging as our community grows and changes. In some cases, answers lead to more questions, which keeps us on the watch for data and engagement that together can inspire the entire community to openly plan for excellence.

Town of Longboat Key

Est. 1955

4.13

Square Miles
of land*

7,082

Total Population
(2013 Estimates)

1,667.8

People per Square
Mile*

1,303

Veterans
~18.4% of
Population

785

Foreign Born
~11.1% of
Population

$614,000

Median Value of
Owner-Occupied
Housing Units

- Asian
- Two or More Races
- Hispanic or Latino (of any race)
- White alone, Not Hispanic or Latino

0.61   1.03   1.60   2.66
94.10%
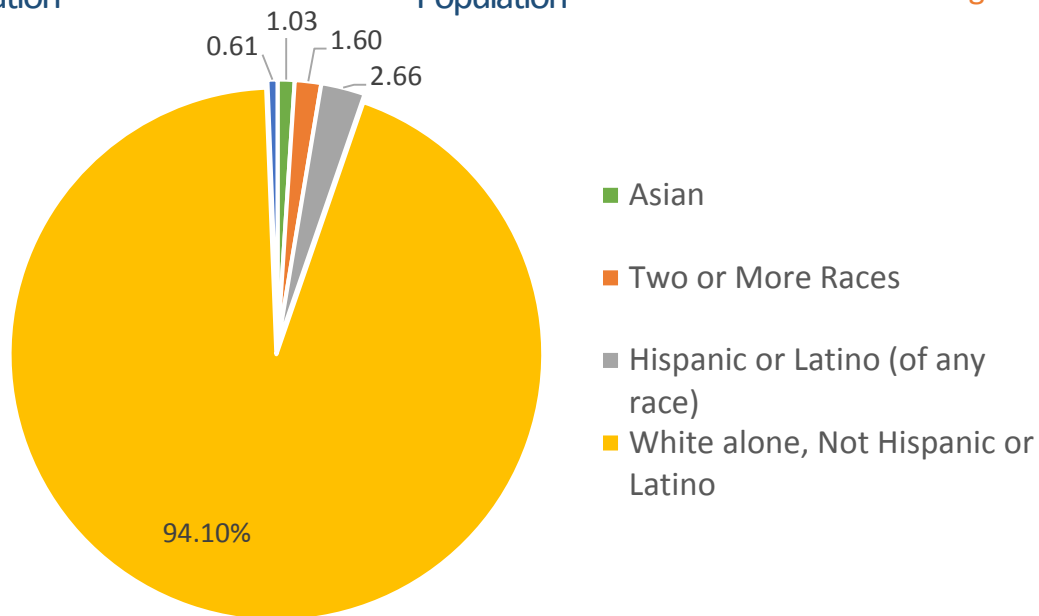
Median Age:	**70.3 years**	
*% below 18 years:	**2.9**	
*% above 65 years:	**67.3**	

Median Annual Income:	**$94,800**	
% Below Poverty Line:	**5.9**	
% w/ High School Diploma:	**98.4**	

Sources: 2008-2012 American Community Survey
   U.S. Census Bureau, 2013 Population Estimates
   *2010 U.S. Census

City of North Port

Est. 1959

99.58
Square Miles of land*

59,212
Total Population (2013 Estimates)

576
People per Square Mile*

6,334
Veterans ~10.7% of Population

6,285
Foreign Born ~10.6% of Population

$131,700
Median Value of Owner-Occupied Housing Units

Pie chart values:
- 0.14
- 14.10
- 1.61
- 1.03
- 2.33
- 15.58
- 65.20

Legend:
- Black/African American
- Asian
- Other Race
- Two or More Races
- Hispanic or Latino (of any race)
- White alone, Not Hispanic or Latino
- OTHER
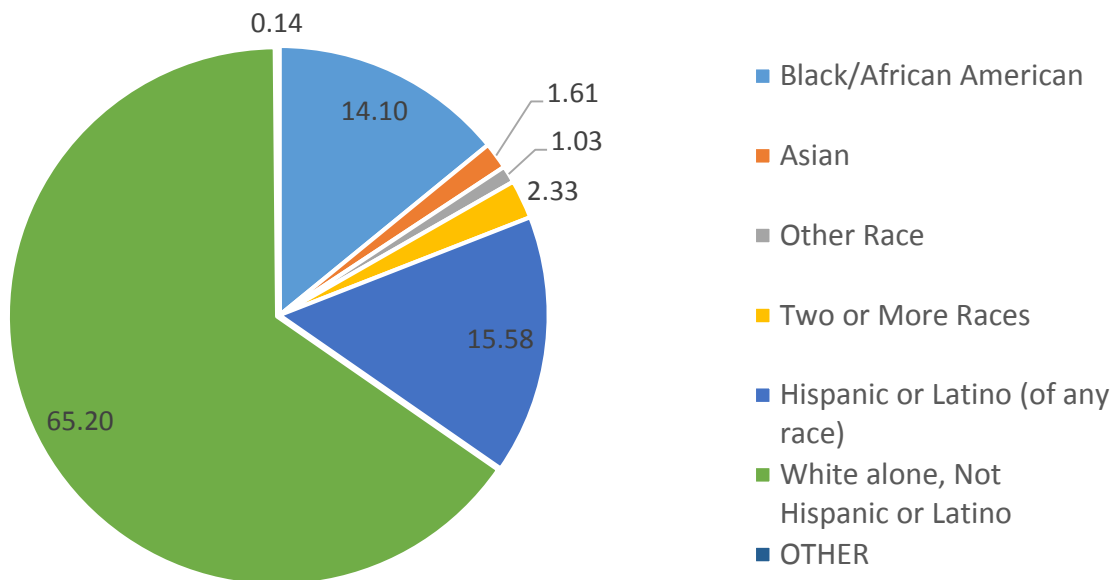
Median Age:	**41.2 years**
*% below 18 years:	**24.2**
*% above 65 years:	**17.9**

Median Annual Income:	**$49,239**
% Below Poverty Line:	**9.5**
% w/ High School Diploma:	**89.9**

Sources: 2008-2012 American Community Survey
U.S. Census Bureau, 2013 Population Estimates
*2010 U.S. Census

City of Sarasota

Est. 1913

14.66
Square Miles of land*

53,326
Total Population (2013 Estimates)
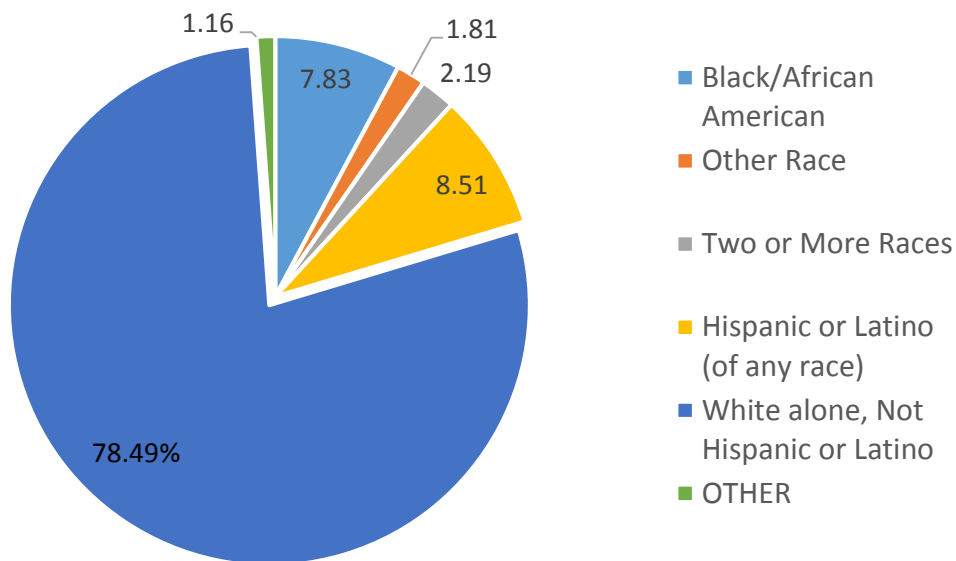
3,540.9
People per Square Mile*

4,431
Veterans ~8.3% of Population

8,586
Foreign Born ~16.1% of Population

$175,900
Median Value of Owner-Occupied Housing Units

Pie chart values: 1.16, 7.83, 1.81, 2.19, 8.51, 78.49%

- Black/African American
- Other Race
- Two or More Races
- Hispanic or Latino (of any race)
- White alone, Not Hispanic or Latino
- OTHER

Median Age:	**45.2 years**
*% below 18 years:	**16.8**
*% above 65 years:	**22.4**

Median Annual Income:	**$40,813**
% Below Poverty Line:	**21.1**
% w/ High School Diploma:	**89.0**

Sources: 2008-2012 American Community Survey
 U.S. Census Bureau, 2013 Population Estimates
 *2010 U.S. Census

City of Venice

Est. 1927

15.27
Square Miles
of land*

21,253
Total Population
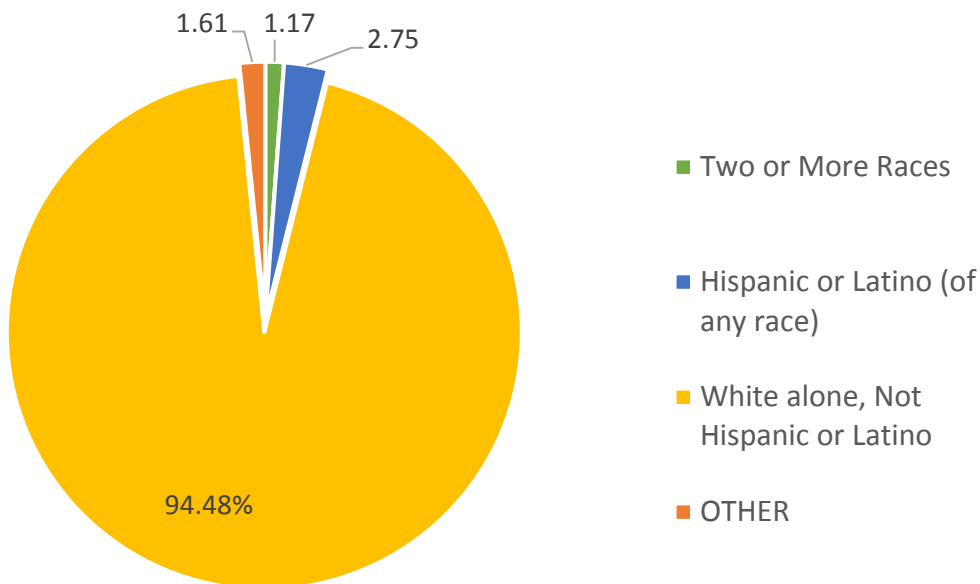(2013 Estimates)

1,358.9
People per Square
Mile*

3,874
Veterans
~18.2% of
Population

1,424
Foreign Born
~6.7% of
Population

$180,800
Median Value of
Owner-Occupied
Housing Units

1.61   1.17   2.75

94.48%

- ■ Two or More Races
- ■ Hispanic or Latino (of any race)
- ■ White alone, Not Hispanic or Latino
- ■ OTHER

Median Age:	**65.9 years**
*% below 18 years:	**6.1**
*% above 65 years:	**57.0**

Median Annual Income:	**$46,404**
% Below Poverty Line:	**9.1**
% w/ High School Diploma:	**94.2**

Sources: 2008-2012 American Community Survey
U.S. Census Bureau, 2013 Population Estimates
*2010 U.S. Census

DEMOGRAPHICS

Demographics

As we move into the future, it is important that we recognize the changing demographics of the United States, the State of Florida, and Sarasota County. Recognizing the change in the demographic nature of a population allows us to recognize how to *adapt the use of our resources to meet both the needs of our present and our future*. Two examples of how our changing demographics demands a reevaluation of our use and distribution of resources are the impacts of the change in the age of our population and the change in the racial and ethnic diversity of our population.

- The U.S. population is aging as a result of increased life expectancy and the relatively lower fertility rates of post baby boomers. [1] This is currently a topic of concern due to Social Security benefits; **the worker to Social Security beneficiary ratio is declining** (from 5.1 in 1960 to 3.3 in 2005 and projected 2.1 in 2040), challenging the future financial integrity of the system. Potential solutions include, but are not limited to, raising the early eligibility and/or full retirement age to receive Social Security and providing incentives through private pension systems for people to retire later. An example of pension system change that has already begun to take place is the transition from "defined benefit pension systems" to "defined contribution systems."

- According to the 2010 U.S. Census projections, the United States will no longer have a clear racial or ethnic majority because of the high population growth rates of people of Asian descent and Hispanic descent by 2050. [2] The Center for American Progress highlights why this demographic change should be of concern in stating that **"the demographic shift will hold important policy implications, particularly if current racial and ethnic disparities in education, employment, health, and other social services continue."**

Demographics can be used to:

- ➔ Better understand population needs and interests.
- ➔ Recognize the rate of population growth while considering resource availability.

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[1] Reznik, Gayle L., Dave Shnoffner, and David A Weaver, "Coping with the Demographic Challenge: Fewer Children and Living Longer," Social Security Bulletin, 66:4, 2005/2006, ssa.gov.

[2] Cardenas, Vanessa, Julie Ajinkya, and Daniella Gibbs Leger,"Progress 2050: New Ideas for a Diverse America," Center for American Progress, October 2011, americanprogress.org.

DEMOGRAPHICS

The Indicators Included

> *"We inhabit a universe that is characterized by diversity."*
> *- Desmond Tutu*

About the data

The majority of the demographic data are from the U.S. Census Bureau's American Community Survey. The data offered includes 1-year data, 3-year data, and 5-year data, each with it pros and cons. The 1-year data is the most current whereas the 5-year data is the most precise. Due to its currency and the lack of year overlap, the one year data was used most frequently. For more information about the data, please visit http://www.census.gov/acs/www/guidance_for_data_users/estimates/.
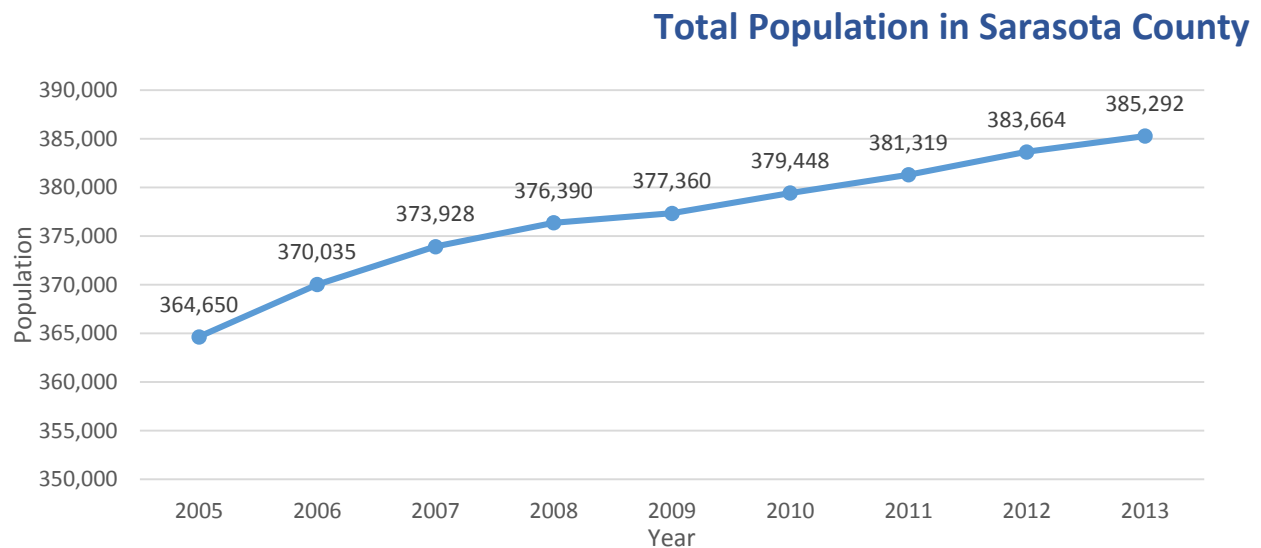
TOTAL POPULATION

Total Population in Sarasota County

Figure 1: http://www.bebr.ufl.edu/

This data shows an increase in the total population from 2005 to 2012. Below, the table suggests that the population increase was a result of people moving into Sarasota County as opposed to the birth rate surpassing the death rate. In fact, that natural increase in Sarasota County was negative.

Change in Total Population

Year	Total Change in Population	Natural Increase	International Net Migration	Domestic Net Migration
April 1, 2010 – July 1, 2013	10,981	-6,915	2,543	15,465

Table 1: U.S. Census Bureau, Population Division.

CAVEAT: This data was obtained from two separate sources, so they are not directly comparable.

TOTAL POPULATION

Percent of Males and Females 2008-12 (5-Year Estimates)
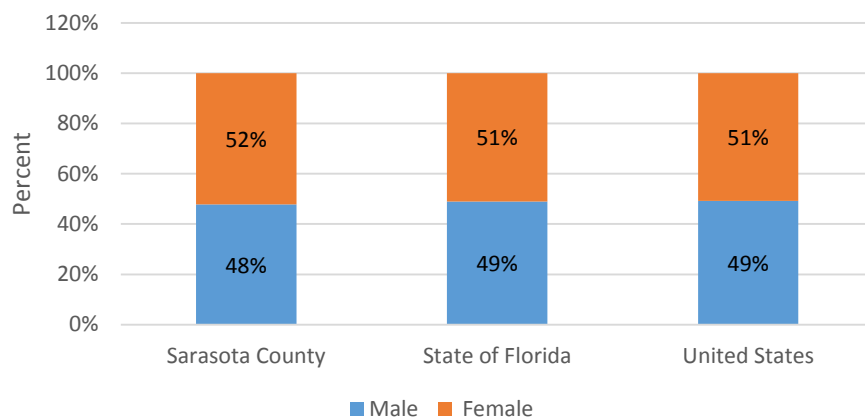

Figure 2: U.S. Census Bureau, 2008-2012 American Community Survey.

At the County, State, and National level, females make up a larger percent of the population than males.
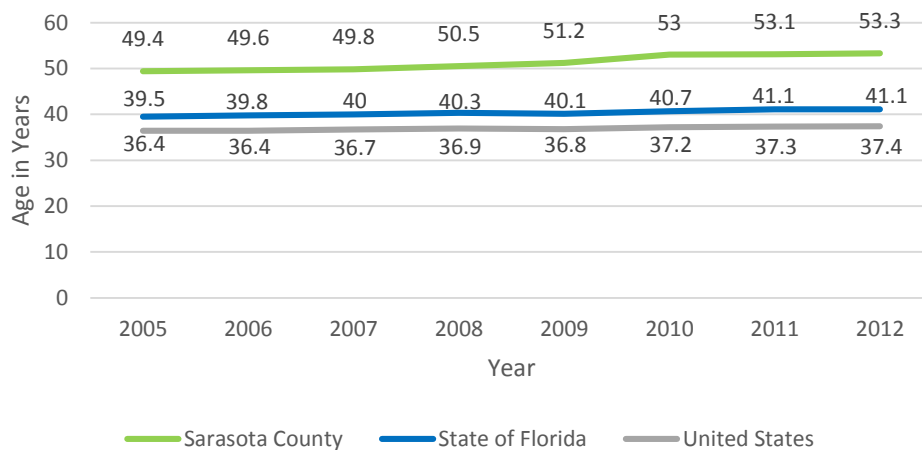
Median Age

Figure 3: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey.

The median age has not varied much from 2005 to 2012. While there has been an increase, the range was 49.4 years to 53.3 years. The median age for Sarasota County remained greater than the state (on average, 11 years) and nation (on average, 14 years) over this range of time.

TOTAL POPULATION

Population by Age, 2012
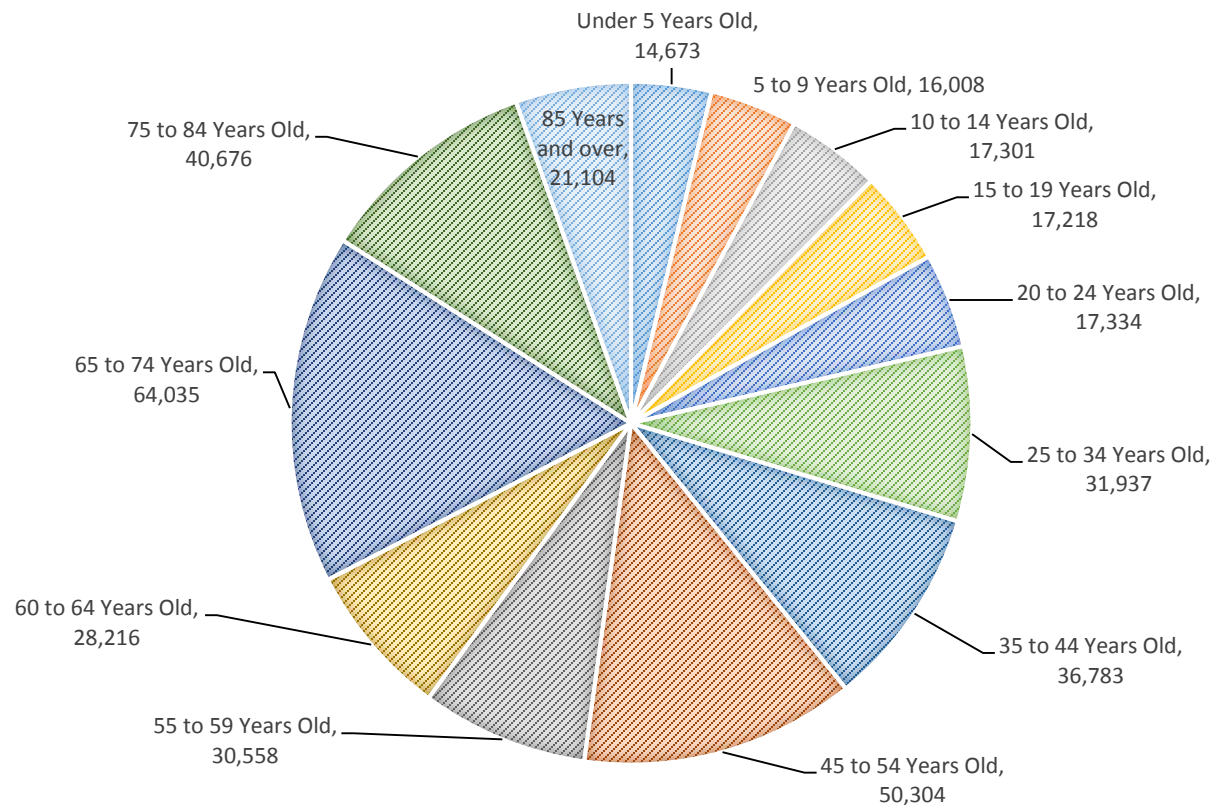
Figure 4: U.S. Census Bureau, 2012 American Community Survey.

According to this data, the largest age bracket in 2012 was 65 to 74 years old. As well, more than half of the population is age 45 or older. The smallest age brackets were the individual brackets between "Under 5 Years Old" and "20 to 24 Years old."

"The percentage of the working age population (between 18 and 65 years of age) is projected to decrease in Sarasota County and also in Florida."

-Sarasota County, "How Are We Aging?"

TOTAL POPULATION

Population by Age, 2005-2012

	Under 5 Years Old	5 to 9 Years Old	10 to 14 Years Old	15 to 19 Years Old	20 to 24 Years Old	25 to 34 Years Old	35 to 44 Years Old	45 to 54 Years Old	55 to 59 Years Old	60 to 64 Years Old	65 to 74 Years Old	75 to 84 Years Old	85 Years and over
2005	15684	16112	18060	16873	15906	33882	42975	48316	25056	23022	47973	42215	13709
2006	15837	14992	17543	16798	16856	37534	43262	48290	23517	25594	46136	47569	15607
2007	16200	16971	16403	18024	15658	37835	42087	48711	23511	26070	46111	46507	17985
2008	16021	14197	18776	17324	15588	37885	39016	50496	22529	27398	46267	48373	18187
2009	16093	14432	18739	17884	16159	30853	40133	49134	26872	27047	51210	42559	18650
2010	14617	15365	18357	18306	15571	31424	37797	51156	28108	31105	58657	41931	17480
2011	14559	15820	18112	18156	16076	30576	37950	50327	27514	30995	60884	43189	18055
2012	14673	16008	17301	17218	17334	31937	36783	50304	30558	28216	64035	40676	21104

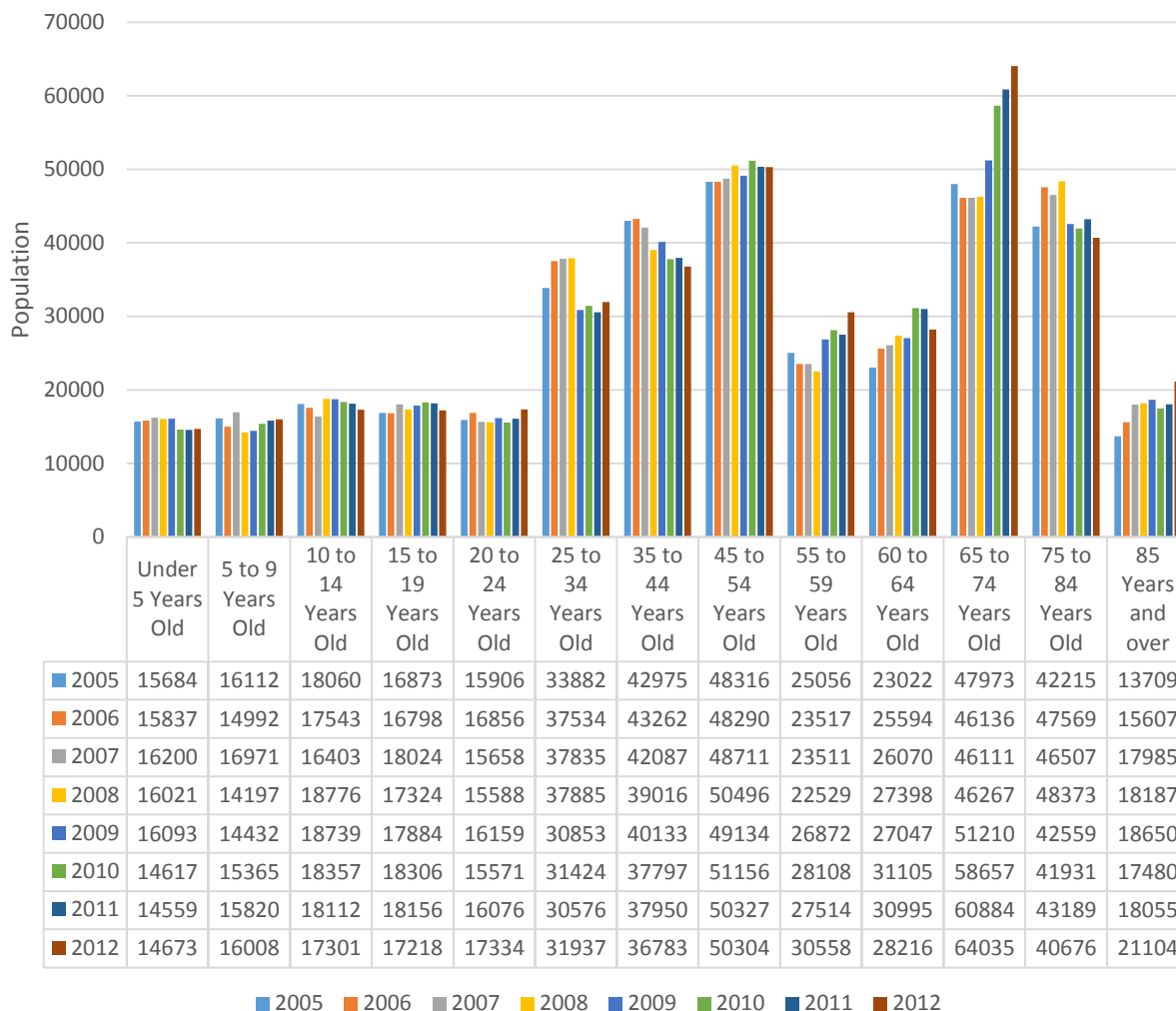■ 2005 ■ 2006 ■ 2007 ■ 2008 ■ 2009 ■ 2010 ■ 2011 ■ 2012

Figure 5: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey.

According to this data, there has been an increase in the number of people age 65-74 in Sarasota County. In 2005, there were 47,973 people age 65-74. In 2012, this number increased to 64,035. During the same time period the number of people age 35-44 decreased. In 2005, there were 42,975 people age 35-44. In 2012, there were 36,783.

What policy changes would help Sarasota County meet the needs of the aging population?
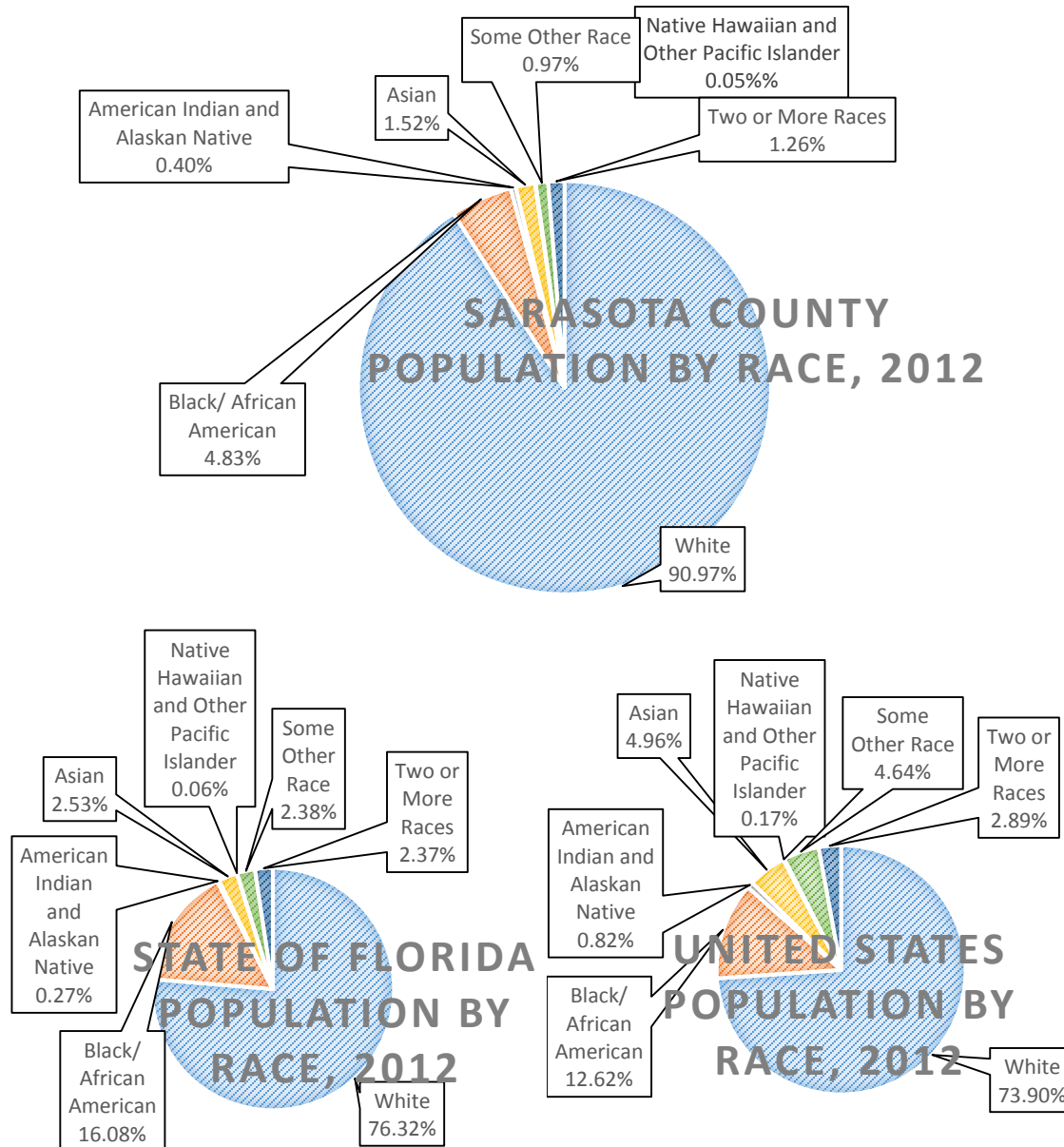
TOTAL POPULATION

Population by Race, 2012

American Indian and Alaskan Native
0.40%

Asian
1.52%

Some Other Race
0.97%

Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander
0.05%%

Two or More Races
1.26%

Black/ African American
4.83%

SARASOTA COUNTY POPULATION BY RACE, 2012

White
90.97%

Asian
2.53%

Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander
0.06%

Some Other Race
2.38%

Two or More Races
2.37%

American Indian and Alaskan Native
0.27%

STATE OF FLORIDA POPULATION BY RACE, 2012

Black/ African American
16.08%

White
76.32%

Asian
4.96%

Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander
0.17%

Some Other Race
4.64%

Two or More Races
2.89%

American Indian and Alaskan Native
0.82%

UNITED STATES POPULATION BY RACE, 2012

Black/ African American
12.62%

White
73.90%

Figure 6, 7, and 8: U.S. Census Bureau, 2012 American Community Survey.

This data illustrates that Sarasota has a very large white population, making up 91% of the population in 2012. The next largest group, 5%, is the black/African American population. These numbers illustrate a low level of diversity within the Sarasota County community. Sarasota County has less racial diversity than Florida and the United States; white people make up a larger proportion of Sarasota's population (91%) than Florida (76%) and the United States (74%).

*Calculated by SCOPE

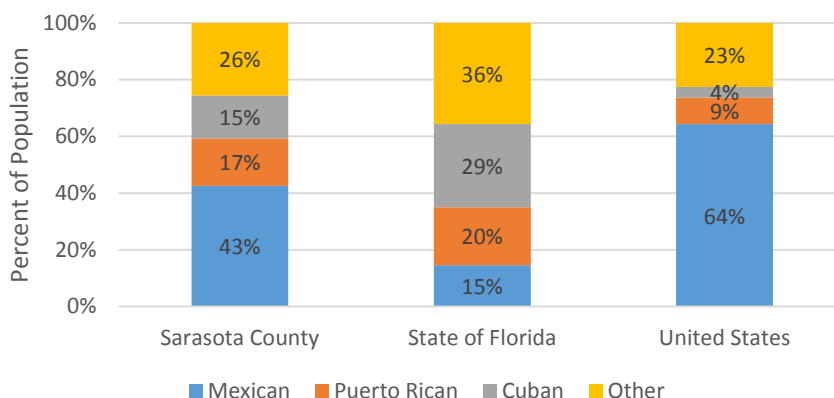# TOTAL POPULATION

2012 Hispanic/Latino Population

Figure 9: U.S. Census Bureau, 2012 American Community Survey.

The majority of the Sarasota County and US Hispanic/Latino population in 2012 are Mexican, whereas the Mexican population makes up the smallest proportion of the Hispanic/Latino population in Florida.

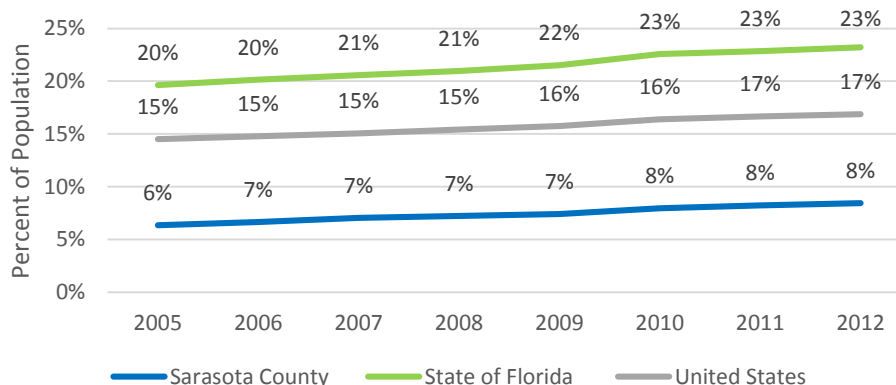## Total Hispanic/ Latino Population (of any race)

Figure 10: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey.

Overall, the Hispanic/Latino population has been constantly increasing, with a 2 percentage point increase from 2005 to 2012 in Sarasota County.

What policy changes would help ensure that Sarasota County is a socially and economically inclusive society, regardless of race and ethnicity?

Ancestry & Birth Place

Declared Ancestry, 2012

(Total Population 386,147)

American	41,469	Italian	29,005
Arab	1,564	Lithuanian	949
Czech	2,370	Norwegian	4,693
Danish	1,049	Polish	15,925
Dutch	5,786	Portuguese	1,097
English	44,696	Russian	5,889
French (Except Basque)	14,576	Scotch-Irish	5,543
French Canadian	4,093	Scottish	8,853
German	65,931	Slovak	612
Greek	1,347	Sub-Saharan African	685
Hungarian	5,665	Swedish	6,074
Irish	54,840	Swiss	2,083
		Ukrainian	1,695
		Welsh	2,449
		West Indian (excluding Hispanic Origin Groups)	1,891

Table 2: U.S. Census Bureau, 2012 American Community Survey

Listed above are the ancestry groups most identified within Sarasota County. The ancestries most identified with is German, followed by Irish, and English. The ancestries least identified with in Sarasota County are Slovak, Sub-Saharan African, and Lithuanian.

Birth Place
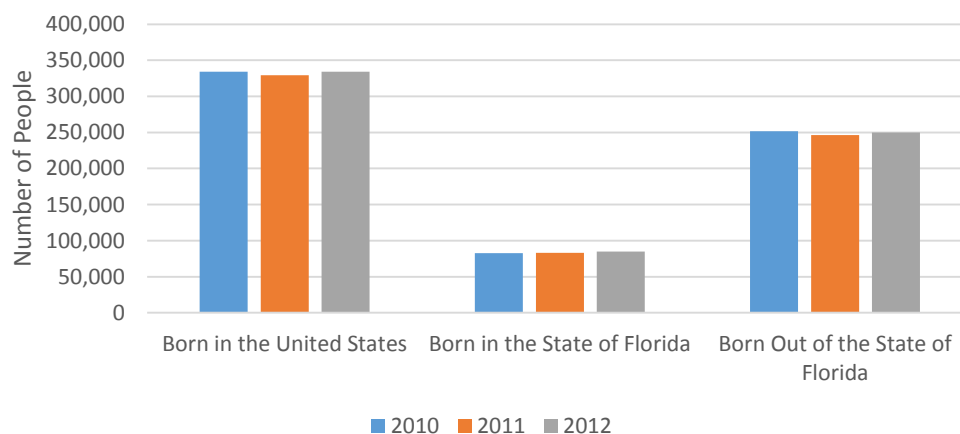
Figure 11: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey.

More people living in Sarasota County were born out of the state than in Florida. In 2012, almost three times more people in Sarasota County were born outside of Florida than in Florida.
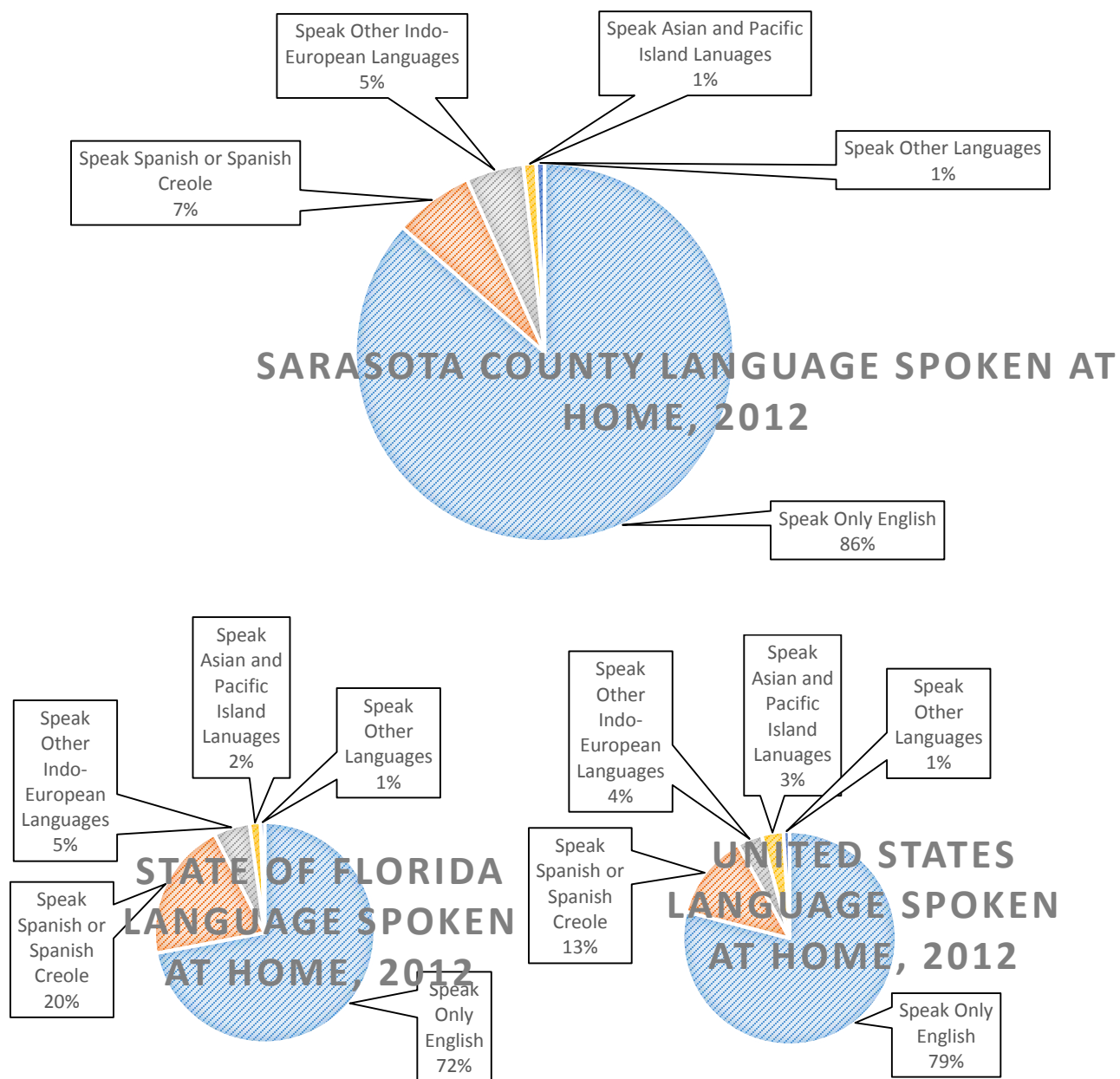
LANGUAGES

Speak Other Indo-European Languages 5%

Speak Asian and Pacific Island Lanuages 1%

Speak Spanish or Spanish Creole 7%

Speak Other Languages 1%

SARASOTA COUNTY LANGUAGE SPOKEN AT HOME, 2012

Speak Only English 86%

Speak Other Indo-European Languages 5%

Speak Asian and Pacific Island Lanuages 2%

Speak Other Languages 1%

Speak Spanish or Spanish Creole 20%

STATE OF FLORIDA LANGUAGE SPOKEN AT HOME, 2012

Speak Only English 72%

Speak Other Indo-European Languages 4%

Speak Asian and Pacific Island Lanuages 3%

Speak Other Languages 1%

Speak Spanish or Spanish Creole 13%

UNITED STATES LANGUAGE SPOKEN AT HOME, 2012

Speak Only English 79%

Figure 12, 13, and 14: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey

The majority of the Sarasota County community, 86%, speak English only. This may be influenced by the fact that a large portion of the people were born in the United States.

HOUSEHOLDS

Household by Type, 2012
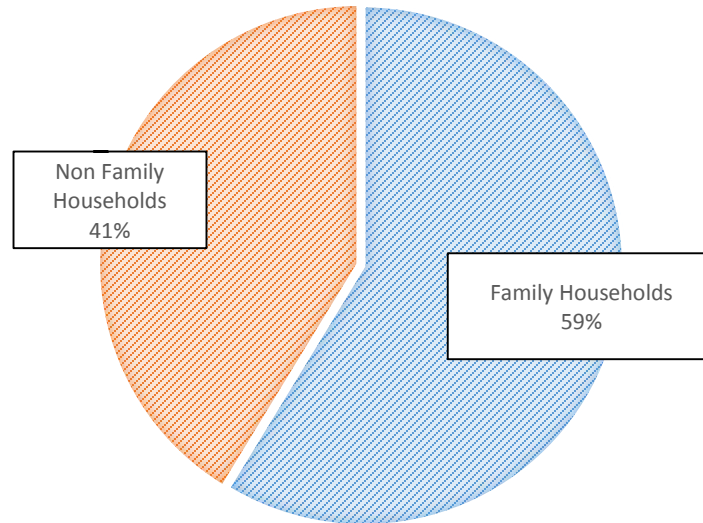
Figure 15: U.S. Census Bureau, 2012 American Community Survey

This data illustrates the total number of households by type in Sarasota County: family households and non-family households. Non-family households consist of households with only unrelated people who live together or people who live alone. The majority of households in each year are family households. For example, in 2012, 59% of the 172,973 households were family households.

Average Family Size, 2012

2.80	3.27	3.25
Sarasota County Average Family Size	**State of Florida Average Family Size**	**United States Average Family Size**

Data Source U.S. Census Bureau, 2012 American Community Survey

The average family size does not vary greatly between Sarasota County, the State of Florida, and the United States, but Sarasota County does have the smallest average family size, followed by the nation and the state.

VETERANS

Percent of Population 18+ that are Civilian Veterans
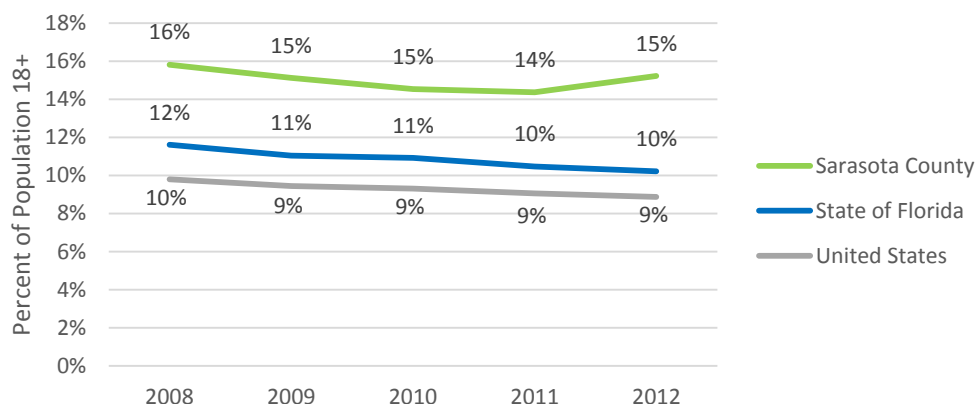
Figure 16: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey

Sarasota County has a greater percent of Civilian Veterans than both Florida and the United States from 2008 to 2012. The percent of Civilian Veterans that make up the Civilian Population age 18 or older did not vary much from 2008 to 2012, with a range of 14% to 16%.

Are you a veteran or a family member of a veteran? Check out the Sarasota County Services offered at https://www.scgov.net/VeteranServices/Pages/default.aspx!

Percent of People with Disabilities, 5-Year Estimate 2008-2012
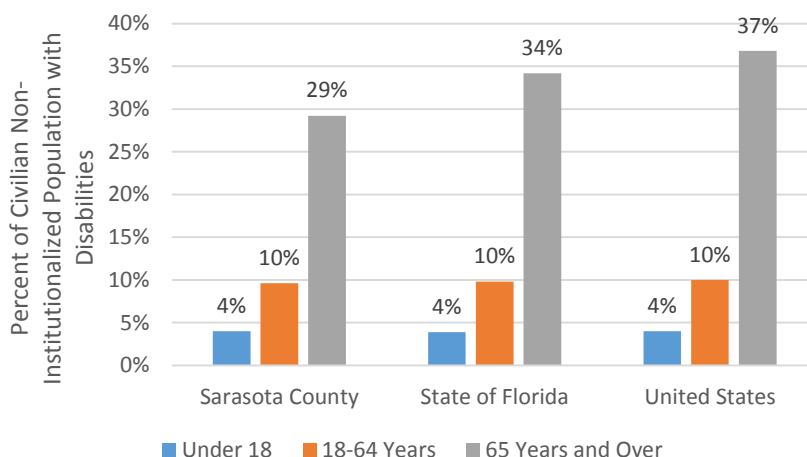
Figure 17: U.S. Census Bureau, 2008-2012 American Community Survey

The percent of people with a disability increases with the increasing age range, suggesting older people have more disabilities than younger people. The pattern is consistent across regions.

About Our Sources

Bureau of Economic and Business Research
bebr.ufl.edu

The Bureau of Economic and Business Research conducts demographic and economic research as well as produces, collects, and analyzes Florida's demographic and economic data. For example, BEBR generates "Florida's official state and local population estimates and projections." Since 1967, BEBR has been responsible for publishing the *Florida Statistical Abstract*, as well as conducting Florida's *Consumer Sentiment* survey, monthly.

U.S. Census Bureau
census.gov

The U.S. Census Bureau works under the authority of the United States Code to collect and provide both demographic and economic data. The U.S. Census Bureau is responsible for conducing the decennial Population and Housing Census, the bi-decennial Economic Census and Census of Governments, the annual American Community Survey, as well as many other economic and demographic surveys. The U.S. Census Bureau also collects data on a variety of economic indicators. The data is used to determine allocation of federal funding to local, state and federal governments, the distribution of congressional seats, and to determine which community services to provide to the people.

LEARNING

Domain of Well-being:
LEARNING

This domain conveys vital information regarding the future of Sarasota County residents, making it one of the cornerstones of the Community Report Card. The indicators in the learning domain include data on early learning, Florida Comprehensive Assessment Tests (FCAT) performance – a standardized testing platform for the entire state, dropout and graduation rates, and reported intent of graduated students hoping to continue onto higher education.

Education is an integral investment into the community that has both short term and long term benefits. It is a catalyst for development and progress for both students and the greater community.

With the indicators in this domain of well-being, we will be able to:

➔ Track Sarasota County schools and student's accomplishment, from Pre-K to high school graduates.
➔ Reveal areas where there is room to improve inclusivity for disadvantaged students and target specific needs that are not currently met.
➔ Consider how educational success can be experienced differently by Sarasota County's diverse population.
➔ Report student dropout rates as well as graduation rates to consider factors that might influence student success in Sarasota County.
➔ Gauge graduating student interest to continue their education in post-secondary institutions.

There is a great depth of information in this domain of well-being. Sarasota County residents who participated in our 2013 High Tech High Touch Workshops revealed particular interest in high school graduation rates and student dropout rates as compelling indicators.

Tracking student successes in Sarasota County can reveal underlying trends that might only reveal themselves later as a small graduating class or high student drop outs. Data revealing a strong 3rd grade class can manifest in higher graduating rates a few years down the line. At the same time, a poorly performing class or group of students in current data can shed light on likelihood of dropouts. Some of this data could be considered as 'early warning signs'.

Domain of Well-being:
LEARNING

The Indicators Included

Key Findings

✓ Sarasota County schools consistently have a greater proportion of teachers with advanced degrees than teachers with a bachelor's degree. In the 2011-2012 school year, about 56% of teachers had achieved an advanced degree while 44% had a bachelor's degree.

✓ **Socioeconomic factors** seem to be **related to student successes** in achieving educational testing standards. About 75% of students who *do not* receive free or reduced school lunches pass the 10th Grade FCAT standardized testing. Meanwhile, only about 52% of students who do receive free or reduced lunches pass the 10th Grade FCAT testing.

✓ In 2013, **37% of Black/African American students, 49% of Hispanic/Latino students, and 72% of white students passed the 10th Grade FCAT**. This consistent trend in previous years show that disparities between race and ethnicity is related to standard educational achievement.

✓ 3rd Grade student performance on FCAT standardized testing has been consistently higher in Sarasota County than average passing rates for the State of Florida.

✓ High school student dropout rates are 0.3% higher in Sarasota County for white students than average rates in the State of Florida. Additionally, high school students who identified with two or more races have a 0.9% higher dropout rate in Sarasota County than greater Florida.

✓ The total graduation rate in Sarasota County is on par with the average graduation rate in Florida – 76%.

✓ Black/ African American students have a 9% lower graduation rate in Sarasota County than average rates in Florida, while Hispanic/Latino students have an 11% lower graduation rate than the total average state graduation rate.

✓ Since the 2007-2008 academic year, graduating high school students in Sarasota County who *reported* plans to continue a higher education has increased by almost 10%. In the 2011-2012 academic year, 77% of graduates reported plans to continue education.

What data is most important to you in this domain of well-being?

Let us know and we'll include it as we continue to update these indicators!

Early Learning

Florida Assessment for Instruction in Reading-K (FAIR-K), Sarasota County

This indicator shows the percentage of Pre-K students who scored in the 67-99%, 16%-66%, and 1-15% ranges on the Florida Assessment for Instruction in Reading-K (FAIR-K) in Sarasota County. A Pre-K student must score 67% or higher to be considered as a student with a "Probability of Reading Success". The FAIR-K Assessment standards were adopted in 2009.

Figure 18: The Early Learning Coalition
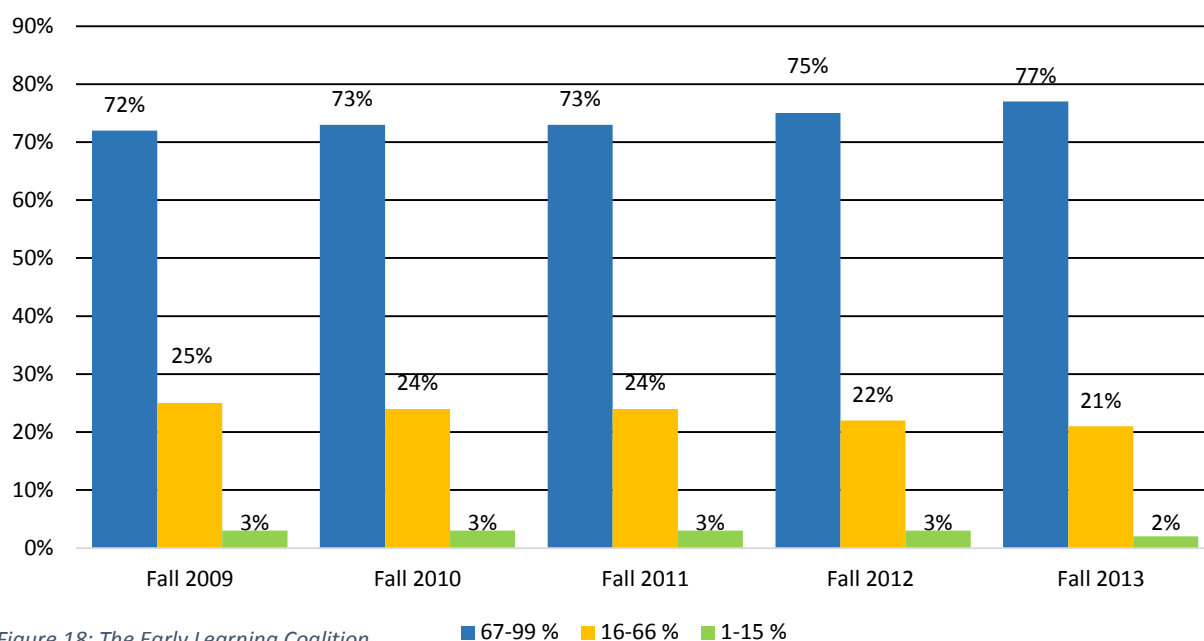
Since the first year of the FAIR-K testing in 2009, Sarasota County's Pre-K students have continuously made improvements. In 2009, 72% of students scored with probability of reading success in Kindergarten. This increased to 77% in fall of 2013.

Figure 2 displays the percentage of Pre-K students with a high probability of reading success for Sarasota County and the State of Florida. Our county has a higher rate of Pre-K students who have a high probability of reading success in Kindergarten.

The FAIR-K testing is helpful for both students and teachers to anticipate needs and adjust learning and teaching methods. In the 2014-2015 school year the FAIR-K will be replaced with FAIR-FS.

Figure 19: The Early Learning Coalition
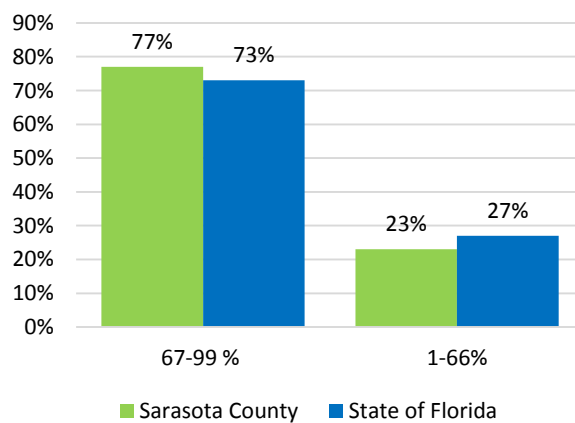
EARLY LEARNING

Early Childhood Observation System (ECHOS) Performance

The Early Childhood Observation System (ECHOS) is specifically designed for pre-kindergarten teachers to screen and assess the pre-k student's readiness to continue onto kindergarten. Readiness must be exhibited in the areas of physical health, different approaches to learning, social and emotional development, language and communication, emergent literacy, mathematical and scientific thinking, social studies and the arts, and motor development. The assessment is conducted at the end of the Voluntary Prekindergarten (VPK) year.

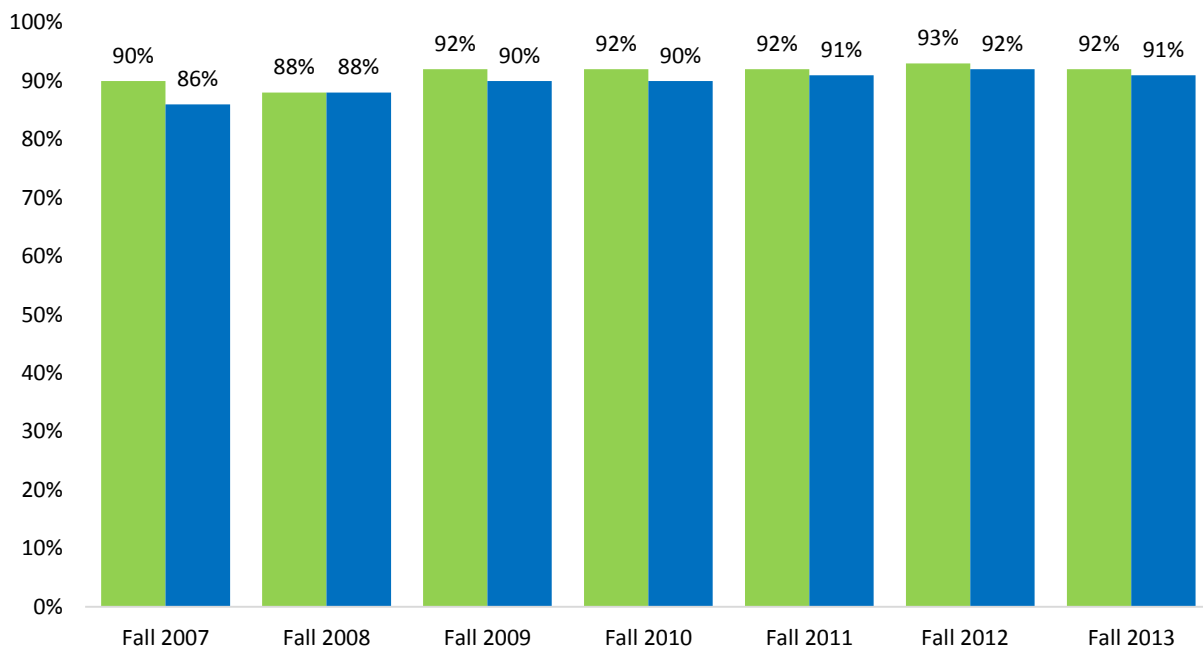*(Florida Kindergarten Readiness Screener, Administration Manual, Florida Department of Education)*

Figure 20: The Early Learning Coalition

This indicator displays the percentage of Pre-K students who are successfully "demonstrating" or showing "emerging progress" on the Early Childhood Observation System (ECHOS) measures. Sarasota County and Florida pre-k students have consistently high performances in these developmental assessments. Sarasota County's rates have been higher than average rates in the State of Florida. Since the Fall of 2007, however, Florida average rates of Pre-K student ECHO Performances have increased from 86% to 91%, while Sarasota County pre-k students have held steady at just about 90%. In the 2014-2015 school year, the ECHOS test will be replaced with the Work Sampling System. This new system looks at developmental domains similarly to the ECHOS tests.

Considering the volumes of research citing benefits of Prekindergarten educations, should Pre-K be made highly accessible and affordable to all families?

PUBLIC EDUCATION

Percent of Teachers with Advanced Degrees
Sarasota County

This indicator shows what percent of elementary, middle and high school teachers have advanced degrees. Advanced degrees include master's, doctorate and specialist degrees. All teachers must hold a bachelor's degree. In this indicator, only public school teachers paid on the instructional salary schedule negotiated by the Sarasota County School district were included.
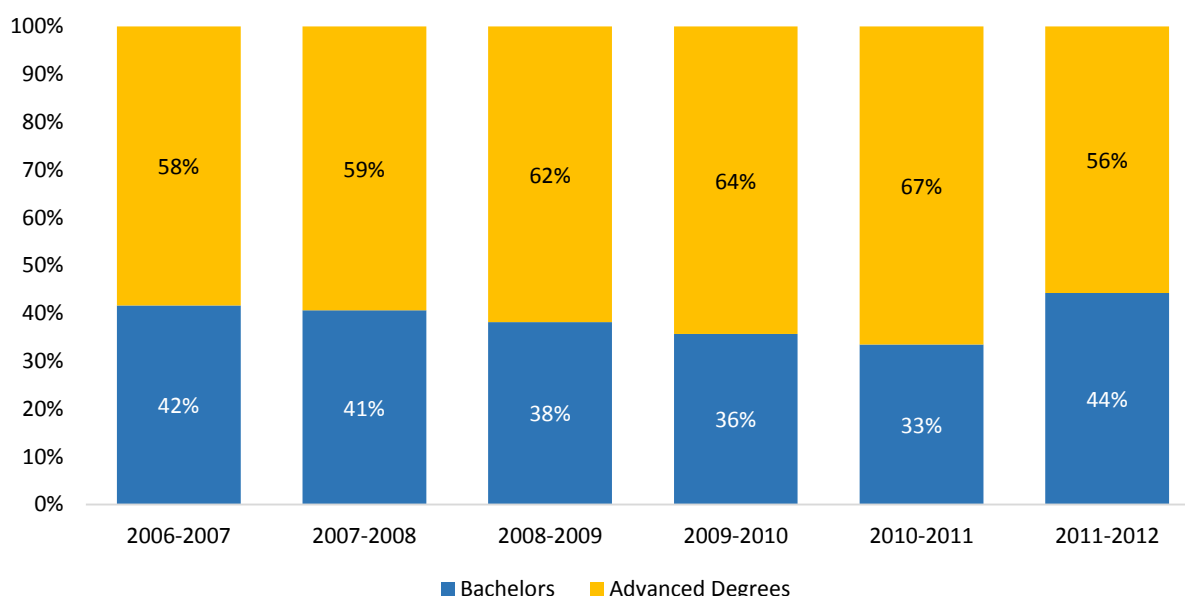

Figure 21: Florida Department of Education

It is exciting to see that there has been a consistent trend of greater than 50% of Sarasota County school teachers holding advanced degrees. Unfortunately, the percent of teachers with advanced degrees has dropped approximately ten percentage points from 2010-11 to 2011-12.

Some research has shown that, of many attempted techniques used to improve student outcomes, the quality of education and success of students are most affected by high-quality teachers. The characteristics of a 'high-quality' teacher include: experience, content knowledge, enthusiasm and commitment. High quality teachers are more likely to improve student performances, especially for students who are at risk of dropping out of school. For this reason, it is important to provide high-quality teachers to all students and not merely at 'the best' schools. A high quality teacher does not have to hold an advanced degree!

(Campaign for High School Equity, *www.highschoolequity.org*)

Do you think an advanced degree improves teacher effectiveness with student performance?

PUBLIC EDUCATION

Average Annual Teacher Salary
Sarasota County

This indicator shows the average annual salaries of Sarasota County teachers from years 2007-08 to 2012-13.

Figure 22: Florida Department of Education

Sarasota County teachers have consistently received between $53,000 and $56,000 (on average) in annual salary over the last six years. Sarasota County is ranked second in providing the greatest annual salary to teachers in the State of Florida (behind Miami-Dade County).

A decrease in average annual teacher salary can be affected by several different factors. They include:

- Entry of new teachers in the county education system
- Retirements or other decrease in the number of experienced teachers
- Education status of teachers (Bachelors vs. Advanced Degrees)

What do you think? Does Sarasota County have higher than average teacher salaries to match higher living costs in Sarasota County?

FCAT

This indicator shows what percentage of 10th grader students scored three or higher on the standardized Florida Comprehensive Assessment Test (FCAT) reading portion. Achievement levels range from a score of 1 (lowest) to 5 (highest). A score of three is considered a passing score. We combined this data with students who receive free or reduced lunches at school. Students receiving free/reduced lunch are our best indicator of low socioeconomic status. In this way we can determine what relationship economic status has with academic performance of students.

The data shows that students receiving free or reduced lunch are not performing as well as students who are not receiving lunch subsidies. This trend reveals the strain that low socioeconomic status puts on a student's education by showing that students who are not eligible or dependent on lunch aid perform better than those in a lower socioeconomic status.
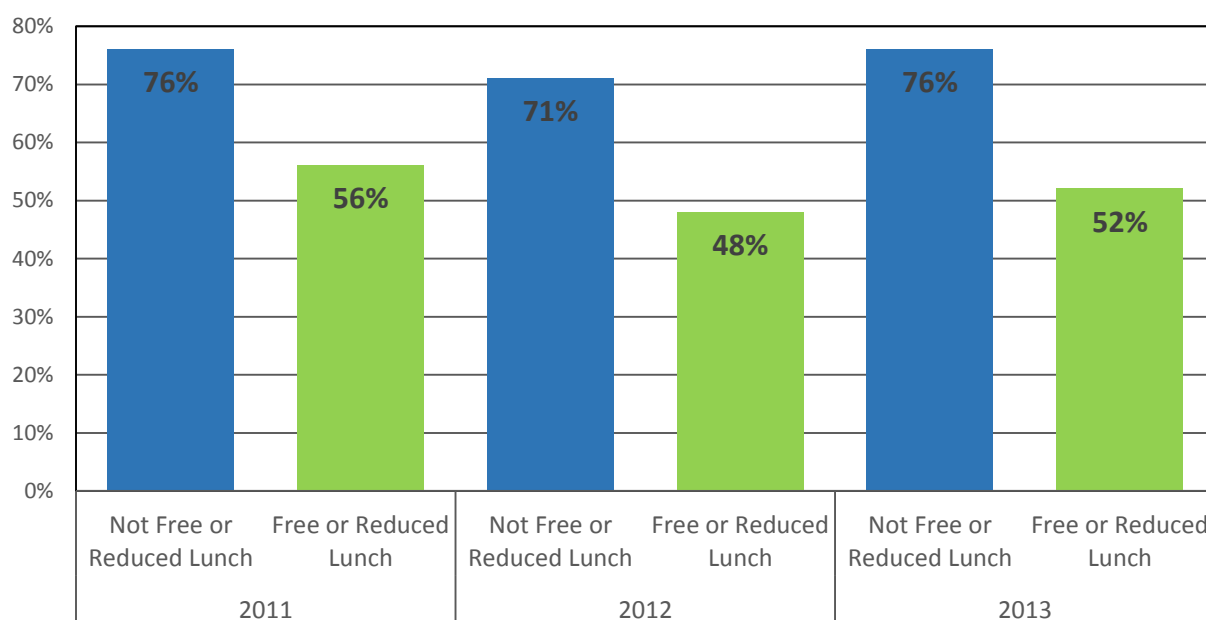

Figure 23: Florida Department of Education

For what reasons do you think socio-economic status of a household is related to student academic success?

What can be done to improve the equal opportunity of students to succeed in school, regardless of differences in income?

FCAT

Percent of Students Passing the 10th Grade FCAT,
by Race and ethnicity
Sarasota County

This graph displays the percentage of students that passed the 10th grade FCAT from 2011 to 2013. The data is isolated by student race and ethnicity to determine if there is a relationship with student academic performance.

This data shows the racial/ethnic disparity that Black/African Americans and Hispanic/Latino residents are facing. In the past three years the averages of students passing the 10th grade FCAT are 36%, 52% and 72% for those who identify as Black or African American, Hispanic/Latino, and White, respectively.
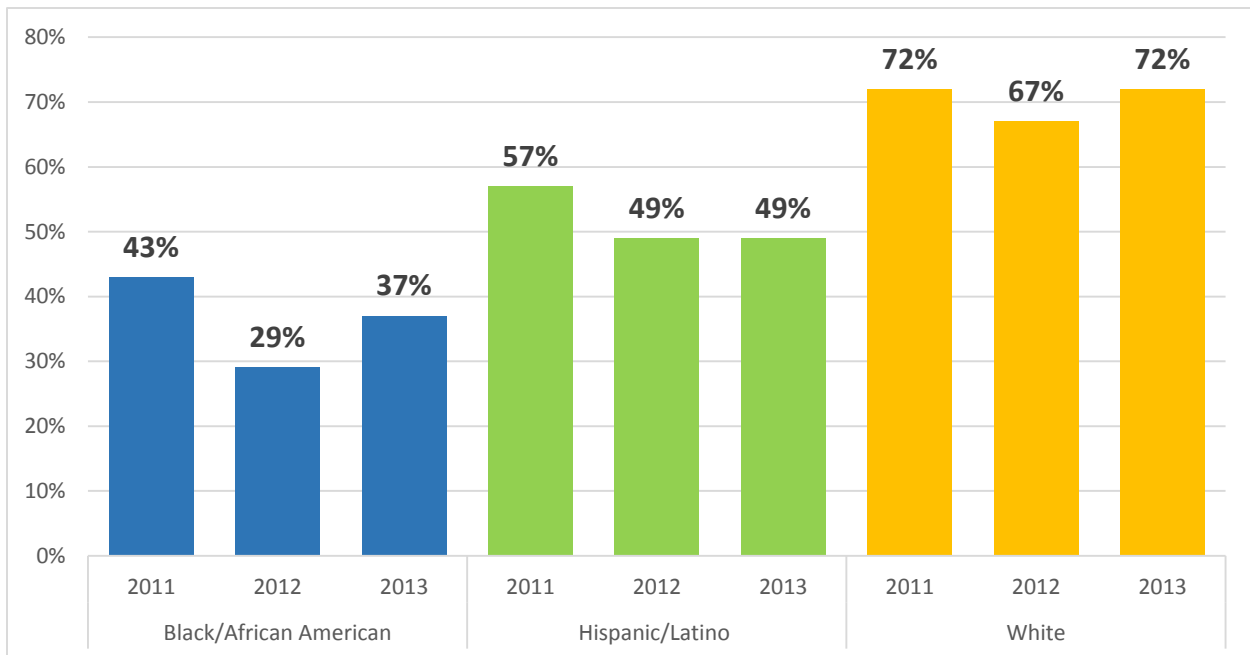

Figure 24: Florida Department of Education

How can these disparities unfold in the future?

Recent statistics show that that national graduation rates are at an all-time low across the board. On average, an incoming high school class will see up to one third of its cohort drop out of school, while another third of that cohort will not be prepared with the necessary skills to succeed in college or employment. Graduation rates are not equal among the diversity of races in the United States. Black/African American, Hispanic/Latino and Native American high school students will have a 60% chance to graduate, a low rate compared to other races.

(Campaign for High School Equity, *Communities of Color: A Critical Perspective in the Common Standard's Movement*)

Data presented in the graph shows that academic performance is not equal among different races or ethnicities.
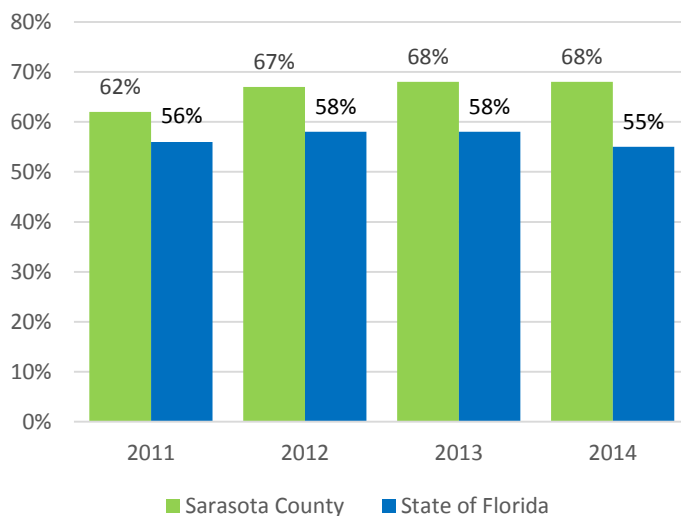
FCAT

Percent of 3rd Graders Earning a Passing Grade

These indicators show the percentage of 3rd graders that scored three or higher on the Florida Comprehensive Assessment Test (FCAT). Achievement levels span a range from level one (lowest) to level five (highest). A score of three is considered a passing score.
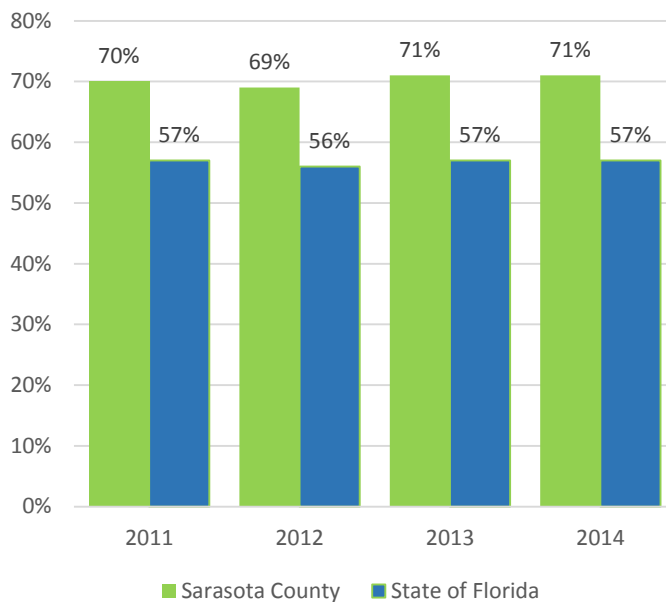
SUBJECT: READING

Sarasota County schools have consistently outperformed the State of Florida in the percent of 3rd graders earning a passing grade on the FCAT reading. It is positive to see an improvement of 2% from 2012 to 2013 within the county. The more recent 2014 scores remained the same as the recently increased 2013 scores. Regardless, until 100% of 3rd graders are reading on grade level, there is much work to be done.

SUBJECT: MATHEMATICS

While Sarasota County is out performing the State of Florida in percentage of 3rd grade students earning a passing grade on the FCAT math, these values are disconcerting. Over 30% of students in Sarasota County and the state are performing below grade level in standard mathematics. Since 2011, however, the percent of Sarasota County 3rd Graders passing the FCAT Mathematics has increased by about 6%.

Figures 25 & 26: Florida Department of Education

English Language Learners (ELL)

Percent of ELL Students, Pre-K – Grade 12
Sarasota County

This data shows the proportion of total enrolled Sarasota County students that have been identified as English Language Learners.
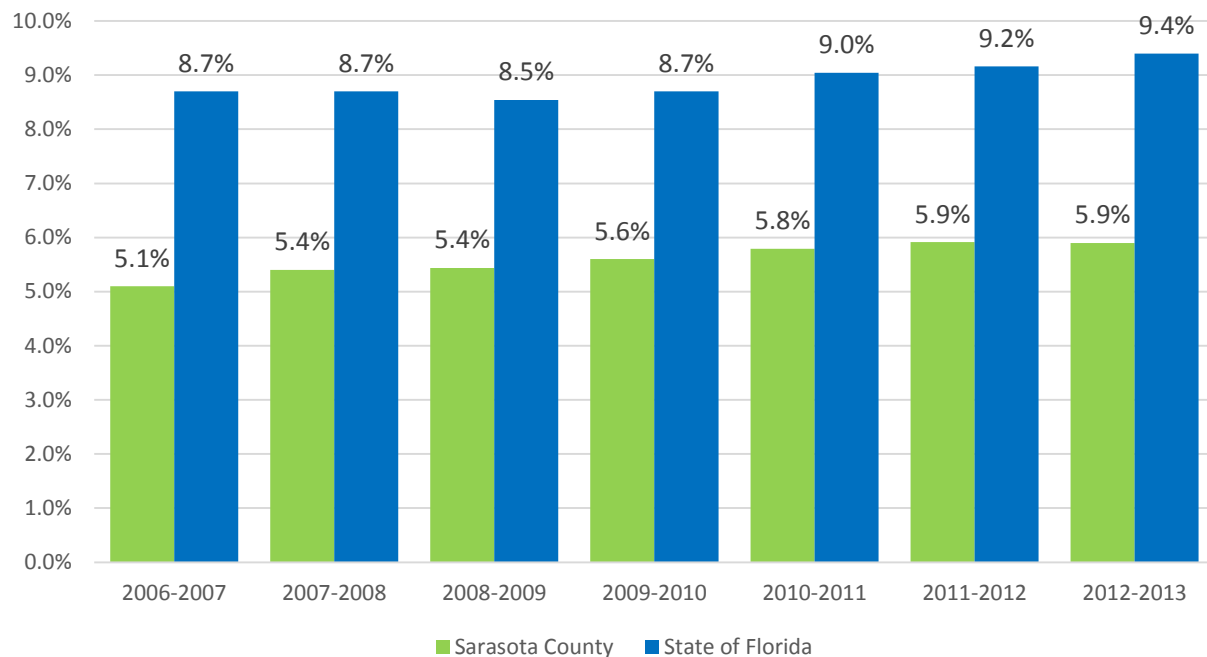

Figure 27: Florida Department of Education

Who is an English Language Learner?

Public schools in the United States are taught in the English language. For student who are not comfortable with the language, academic success can be a challenge and difficult to achieve. As such, Florida Statutes define an English Language Learner (ELL) as someone whose English proficiency can be affected by one of the following situations:

1. An individual who was born outside of the United States and has a native language other than English;
2. An individual who has a home environment in which English is not the primary language;
3. An individual who is an American Indian or Alaskan native who has had another language impact their English proficiency.

From the 2006-07 school year to the 2012-13 school year, the Sarasota County percentage of ELL students has increased steadily from 5 to 6 percent. The proportion of ELL students in Sarasota County is consistently lower than the proportion of ELL students in the state of Florida. The most recent year shows that 9.5% of enrolled students in the state are ELL students.

What are some challenges students who use English as a second language face in school where English is the primary language?

Dropout Rate

9th-12th Grade Single-Year Dropout Rates

Dropout Rate: The Florida single-year dropout rate is calculated using the number of students in ninth through twelfth grade who dropout and comparing it with the ninth through twelfth grade total population. A dropout is defined as a student who withdraws from school for any of several reasons without transferring to another school, home education program, or adult education program.

The dropout rate for the Sarasota County School District has ranged from 1.8% to 2.2% from 2008 to 2013 with a decrease from the 2011-2012 to 2012-2013 school year. While this score is low, the demand for skilled workers to have a high school diploma is exponentially increasing. In order to promise the success of Sarasota County's students, the dropout rate needs to be 0%.
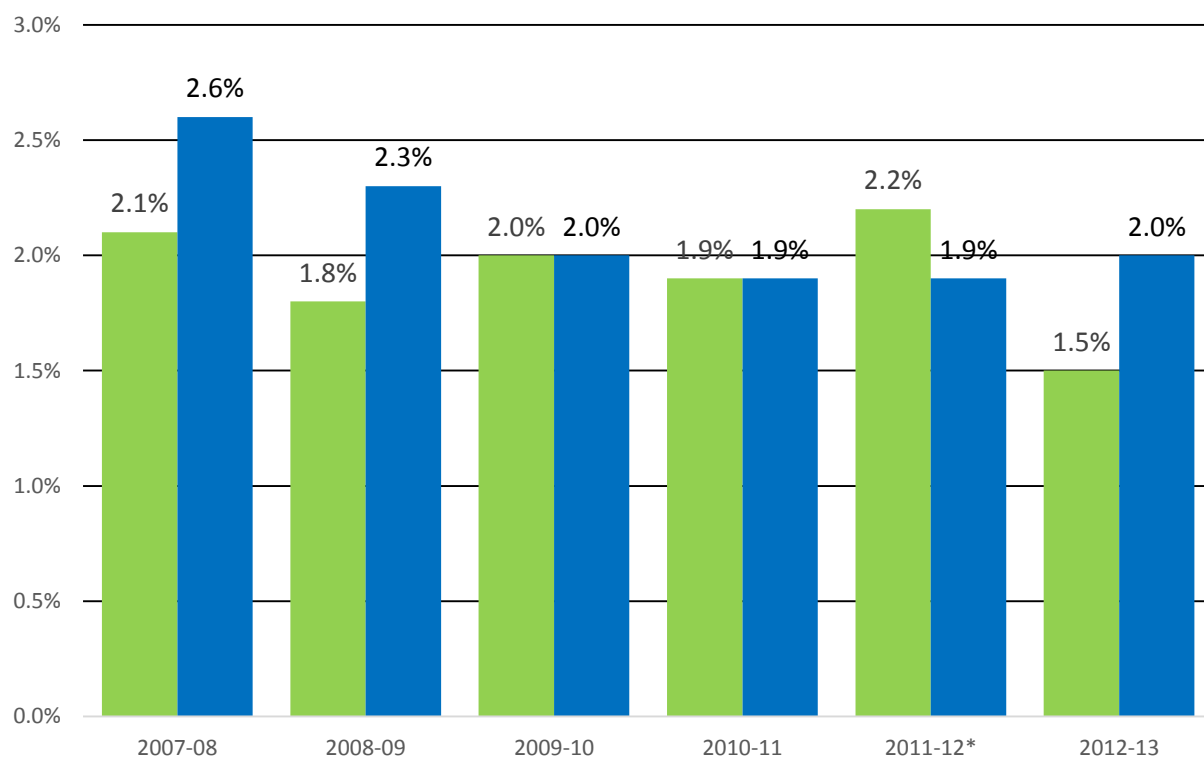

Figure 28: Florida Department of Education ▪ Sarasota County ▪ State of Florida

CAVEAT: This indicator does not tell the likelihood of a student dropping out sometime between 9th and 12th grades. Rather it is a percentage that yields a rough estimate of the likelihood that a student will dropout between 9th and 12th grade. The rates include students in alternative schools and exceptional education schools.

Did you know that high school dropout rates are linked to household family income:
Low income Families: 10%   Middle Income Families: 5.2%   High Income Families: 1.6%

(National Dropout Preventer Center/Network: Statistics)

Dropout Rate

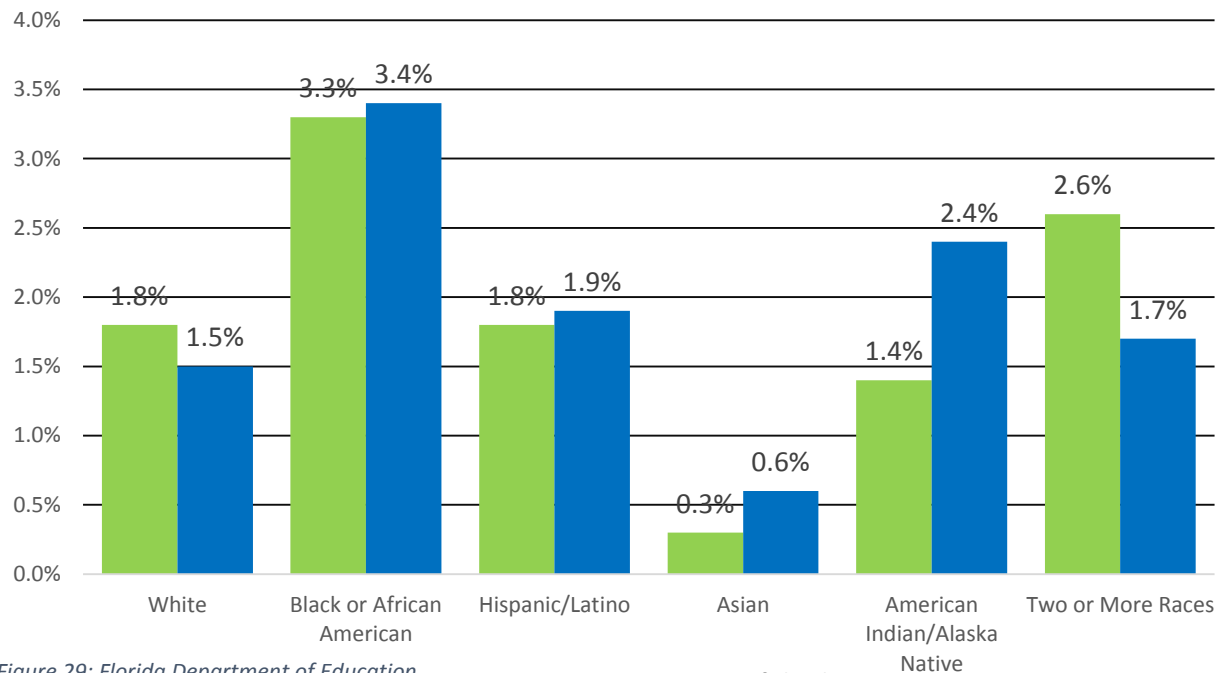## Percent of Student Dropout by Student's Identified Race 2012-2013

Figure 29: Florida Department of Education

Legend: Sarasota County ■ State of Florida

When differentiated by race, the dropout rate ranges from 0.0% - 3.3% within Sarasota County. The isolation of student race and ethnicity from the total dropout rate reveals certain disparities and a relationship between student dropout and race and ethnicity. Black/African American students have the highest dropout rate in Sarasota County - 3.3%. Students who identify with two or more races have a dropout rate of about 2.6%. White and Hispanic/Latino student groups both have a dropout rate of 1.8%. The lowest dropout rates occur within Asian student groups that have a recent dropout rate of 0.3%. Even small disparities between race/ethnic groups reveal that academic success is not an equal opportunity between students.

Consequences to Dropping out:

- About seventy-five percent of prison inmates and 59% of federal prison inmates in America did not complete high school. Students who graduate from high school are 3.5 times less likely to be arrested at any point in their lifetime

- In the current economic climate, only about 40% of adults who did not complete high school are employed, while 60% of adults with a diploma and 80% of adults with a bachelor's degree are employed.

- Workers with a high school diploma earn $9 thousand more annually than an adult without a diploma.   (National Dropout Prevention Center/Network: Statistics)

Graduation

The four-year graduation rate is calculated by dividing the number of students who graduate in four years or less with a regular high school diploma by the number of students who form the adjusted cohort for that graduating class.
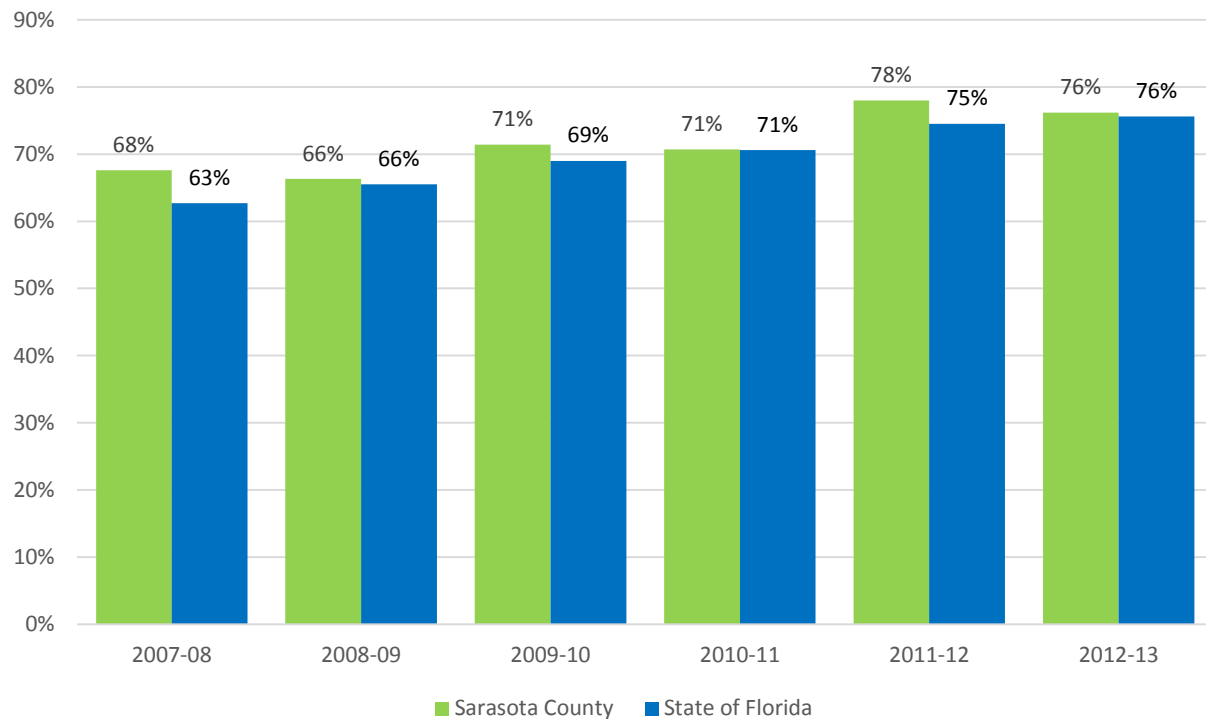

Figure 30: Florida Department of Education

With a range starting at 66% (2008-09), the most recent graduation rate of 78% (2012-13) is a notable improvement for Sarasota County schools. It appears that the State of Florida is experiencing a concurrent positive trend in their graduation rates. Continuing this positive trend is necessary to promote success for Sarasota County's young residents.

What are some reasons that a student may decide to leave school without graduating?

What can be done to equalize the academic playing field among students?

Graduation

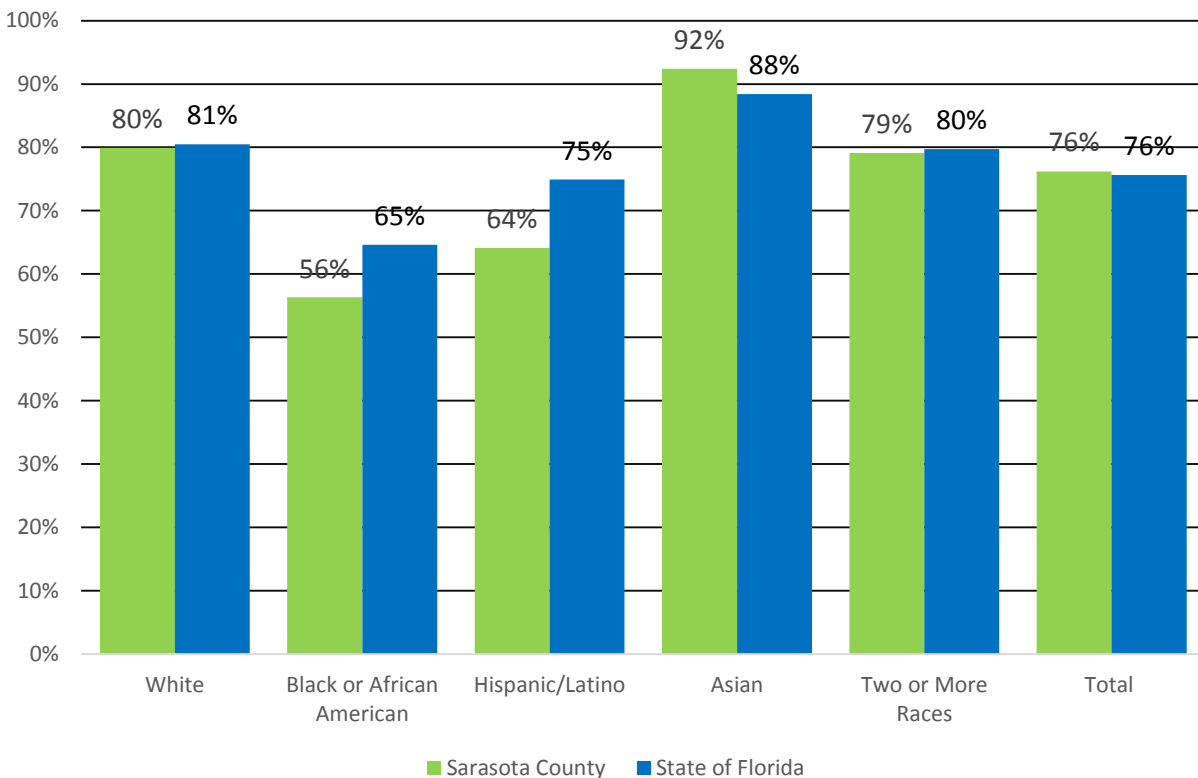## High School Graduation Rate by Student's Race and ethnicity (2012-2013)

Figure 31: Florida Department of Education

Graduation rates for Sarasota County students by identified race and ethnicity in 2012-2013 ranged from 56% to 92%. Asian student groups have the highest graduation rate among the different race/ethnic groups – 92%. Students who identified as white or with two or more races had a 12% lower rate at about 80%. Hispanic/Latino identified students had a graduation rate of about 64%, while Black/African American identified students graduate at a rate of about 56%. It is essential to equality for Sarasota County to focus on improving the balance of these values. An equal chance of academic success begins with the understanding that student experiences within the academic system are not equal.

Caveat: "Section 1008.34, Florida Statutes, requires the State Board of Education to specify, by rule, the grading criteria and point system used for school grades. In order to be aligned with the requirements of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA) waiver, the rule is brought forward with an amendment to revise the definition of "graduates" for the five-year high school graduation rate in the school grades calculation. The definition of "graduates" for the five-year graduation rate will be changed to include only standard diploma recipients as graduates. For 2012, the five-year graduation rate counted special diploma recipients as graduates (they are counted as non-graduates in the federal four-year rate)." – FDOE

Future Education

Percent of High School Graduates Planning to Continue Education

The percent of high school graduates planning to continue their education has steadily increased from 2007-08 to the 2011-12 academic year, starting at 69% and most recently at 77%. The State of Florida has hovered in the 74% to 70% range during the graduating classes of 2008-2012. It is very exciting to see that Sarasota County students are planning to continue their education.
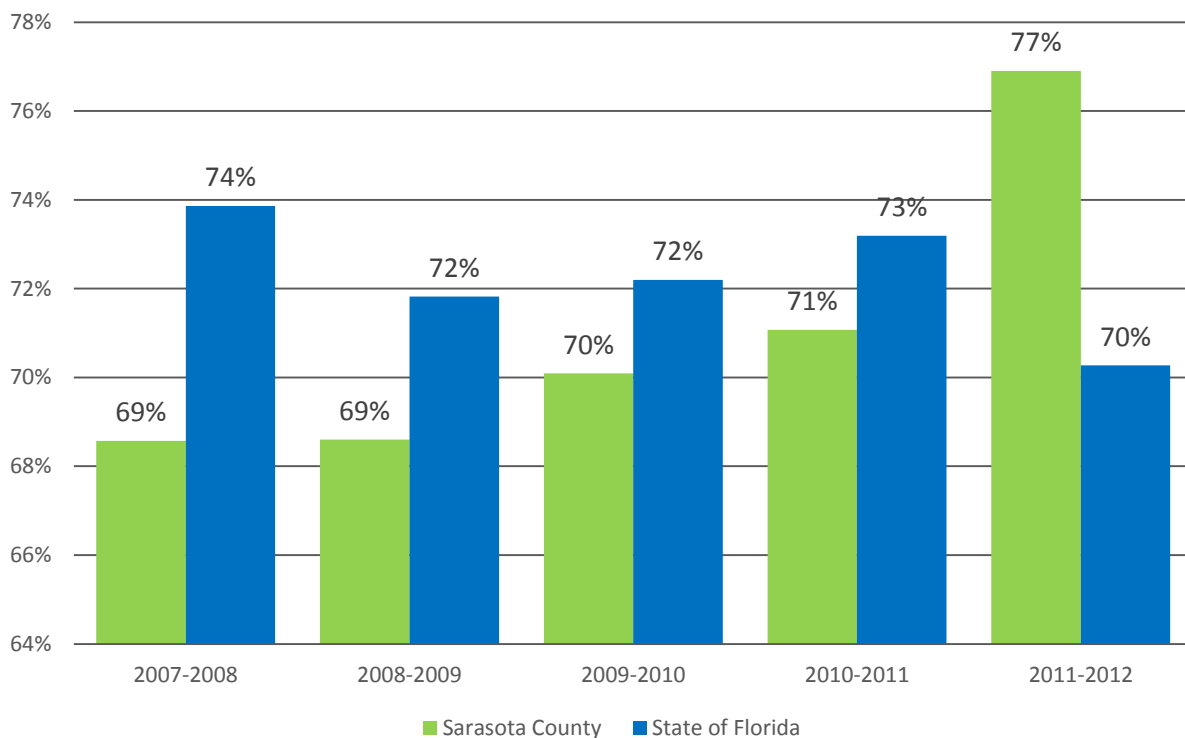

Figure 32: Florida Department of Education

"Florida public high schools annually survey their seniors regarding their educational plans after graduation. In this pre-graduation survey, completers choose from nine types of institutions when indicating their postsecondary education plans. These categories include public and private colleges in Florida; public and private universities in Florida; colleges and universities outside Florida; the U.S. Armed Forces; and technical, trade, or other training in and out of the state." - FDOE

"Education is the most powerful weapon

you can use to change the world."

- Nelson Mandela

Now that you have reviewed the full set of indicators for the learning domain of well-being, which indicators do you find most enlightening, most promising, and most alarming?

The successful community engagement workshops hosted by SCOPE and partnering organizations in 2013 called the High Tech High Touch Workshops revealed resident's interests in our community indicators. We asked participants to list the indicators in each domain of well-being according to their perceived importance as community indicators. Residents largely ranked graduation rates as a vital benchmark in the learning domain of well-being.
We have already gone over those data points, but let's look at the recent trends again:

SARASOTA COUNTY

High School Graduation Rates
      (Academic Year 2007/08 → 2012/13)

+8%

High School Graduation Rates
      (Academic Year 2011/12 → 2012/13)

-2%

In the long run, high school graduation rates have been on the rise. Between the academic year 2007/8 and 2012/13, graduation rates saw an increase of 8%. This is great news!
When we look at shorter time periods, the only decrease in graduation rates occurred from 2011/12 to 2012/13 where there was a loss of 2% in the graduation rate.

Unfortunately, SCOPE was not able to obtain data on Sarasota County graduation rates by socioeconomic status. This data could be powerful to show which income groups in Sarasota County are experiencing the greatest graduation rate growth. Additionally, it would be important to note how the increases in graduation rates are being experienced by different race/ethnic groups.

Is the increase in graduation rates occurring equally among all race groups or are rates different among students of different races?

Questions such as these are important to ask because it can reveal dynamics within the community that could leave some community members at a disservice. What other questions can we ask about our education system?

Do you think that income level of student households play a part in swaying chances of success in academic careers?

TRENDS TO KEEP OUR EYES ON

Race and ethnicity in Education

We presented information that showed the percent of students, by identified race and ethnicity, which passed the 10th Grade FCAT testing standards from 2011 to 2013. The data showed that there was an overall decrease in passing rates in student groups who identified as Black/African American and Latino/Hispanic. The Black/African American group saw a 6% decrease while Latino/Hispanic groups saw an 8% decrease. Students identifying as White did not see any change in passing rates from 2011 to 2013, but did experience a momentary decrease of 5% from 2011 to 2012. Additionally, white student groups have consistently experienced the highest passing rates on the 10th Grade FCAT of all the race groups, followed by Hispanic/Latino and then Black/African American.

The inconsistencies in student performance on standardized testing across race categories suggests that educational achievement does not have equal opportunity value. What goals can our local education systems set to improve educational achievement across different race groups?

Student Dropout Rates

Student dropout rates are not even across race/ethnic groups in Sarasota County. Based on most recent 2012/13 data, student dropouts were the highest among student who identified as Black/African American (3.3%). Student who identified with two or more races had a dropout rate of 2.2%, while students who identified as white or Hispanic/Latino had equal rates of 1.8%.

Student Graduation Rates

Similarly, student graduation rates are not consistent across race/ethnic groups in Sarasota County. Asian student groups have the highest graduation rates at over 90%, followed by white student groups and students identifying with two or more races, with a graduation rate of about 80%. Hispanic/Latino student groups have a graduation rate of about 65%, and Black/African American student groups have a graduation rate of 56%.

Socioeconomics in Education

Almost half of the students receiving free or reduced lunches at Sarasota County schools do not pass the 10th Grade standardized FCAT testing, whereas 75% of students NOT receiving those lunch subsidies are successfully passing the FCAT testing standards. By using free/reduced lunch as a measure of student household socioeconomic status, we can derive from the data that lower income students are experiencing greater difficulty working through the education system. What goals can the Sarasota County education system work toward to improve the playing field for *all* students, regardless of income differences, in Sarasota County?

While successful testing on standardized testing, dropout rates and graduation rates share similar trends at both the state level and national level, it is important to note these variances within our local community. Sarasota County is not free from the disadvantages that come at varying socioeconomic levels and among different race/ethnic groups. With data like this, we need to consider innovative and enterprising ways in which we can level out the playing field for all students in Sarasota County. We can begin by considering why student performance differs between socioeconomics and race and ethnicity.

The powerful data in this domain of well-being can be greatly strengthened by expanding socioeconomic measures for student performance in different indicators. By exploring the relationship of different variables to academic success, schools can better understand the dynamic that students bring into the education system and then work to improve the chance of success for all students.

POSITIVE TRENDS

- **Pre-K student performance on FAIR-K standard assessments have improved by 5% from Fall 2009 to Fall 2013.**
  Pre-K students benefit from their early education by obtaining skillsets and base line frameworks for a strong and continuing education. Over the last five years, these young students have consistently shown improvement in the FAIR-K standardized assessments. By providing early education, students are more likely to succeed in their future education.

- **Overall teacher salaries have increased by 1.4% between 2007/08 and 2012-13.**
  An increase in teacher salaries is an important thing to see in any community. Teachers are the foundation of student education. Sarasota County has some the highest paid teachers in the state! Unfortunately this increase in teacher salaries was accompanied by an overall decrease of 13% in the total number of teachers in the same time period. Luckily, however, we have some of the highest performing schools in Sarasota County!

- **More Sarasota County students are graduating and looking toward higher education!** The overall graduation rate for Sarasota County students have increased by 8% from 2007-08 to 2012-13. At the same time, more graduates are expressing interest in continuing a higher education! An 8% increase from 2007-08 to 2011-12!

We encourage your own analysis of these indicators. Our intent is to spark conversation about issues you see in the data and to inspire action that comes from our community.

What indicators did we not include that would best show the overall health of Sarasota County? Please let us know!

SCOPE

About Our Sources

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The Early Learning Coalition

http://www.earlylearningcoalitionsarasota.org/

The Early Learning Coalition's (ELC) mission is to provide access to the highest quality early education resources and family support to ensure that children are ready for learning and ready for life. The ELC provides administration and oversight of the local, integrated system of early education for preschool age children in Sarasota County, ensuring quality childcare and early learning programs, family access to services, and positive outcomes for young children. The ELC serves over 4,000 children and assists 200 providers annually. The ELC works with the Department of Education/Office of Early Learning to collect the data on FAIR-K and ECHOS testing data.

Florida Department of Education

www.fldoe.org

The Division of Accountability, Research and Measurement is the data team for the Florida Department of Education. This group provides information with the intention to inform policy and support high standards for Florida's education system. An accountability system is maintained by the Division to measure student progress for improvement in the following areas: highest student achievement, seamless articulation and maximum access, skilled workforce and economic development, and quality efficient services.

ECONOMICS

Domain of Well-being:

ECONOMIC HEALTH

The *economic health* domain of well-being includes information about a range of economic issues over five areas: Employment, Income, Poverty, Affordability, and Tourism. These indicators enable us to recognize the current state of the Sarasota County economy and economic trends over time. Within the past decade, the 2007-08 financial crisis took place, impacting economies across the world. Indicators with a time frame inclusive of the years 2007 and 2008 allow us to see the local economic trends during the financial crisis.

The *economic health* domain of well-being can be used to:

➔ Analyze the pace at which the Sarasota economy is recovering from the economic crisis.
➔ Frame a picture of the varied opportunities and lifestyles for people in Sarasota County.
➔ Gain an understanding of how people earn their income in Sarasota County.
➔ Highlight tourist season patterns.

Income inequality, economic growth, and employment

Consumer spending is an important factor of the US economy, as illustrated by the statistic that 70% of US GDP (gross domestic product) was personal consumer spending in 2012.[1] Thus, sustainable purchasing power of consumers is important to US economic activity. "Simply put, demand matters— the consumption of goods and services by households leads businesses to invest, and business investment creates employment and incomes for households."[2] The data in this report reveals that Sarasota County's income inequality mirrors that of the United States. With the current level of inequality, the role of consumer spending in the economy, and the role of business investment in employment in mind, consider this:

What is the relationship between income inequality, economic growth, and employment? What are possible consequences of not reducing income inequality?

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[1] Boushely, Heather and Adam Hersh, "The American Middle Class, Income Inequality, and the Strength of Our Economy," *Center for American Progress,* May 2012, americanprogress.org. page 28
[2] Boushely, Heather and Adam Hersh, page 23.

The Indicators Included

Key Findings

✓ Sarasota County, the State of Florida, and the United States followed a similar unemployment pattern from 2002-2012. Up until 2008, Sarasota County had a lower unemployment level than the state and national level. However, from 2008-2012, the county maintained a higher unemployment rate than state and national levels.

✓ The highest quintile earns 53.18% of Sarasota County's income while the lowest quintile earns 3.56% of the county's income.

✓ From 2003 through 2012, the percent of people under age 18 in poverty did not reach below the percent of people under the age of 18 in poverty in 2002(11.9%).

✓ The percent of households receiving food stamps was lower for Sarasota County than the percent for Florida and the percent for the United States from 2005 to 2012. However, for all three regions, the percent of households receiving food stamps increased over this span of time. In Sarasota County, 2.89% of the households were receiving food stamps in 2005 and 8.66% of households were receiving food stamps in 2012.

✓ In May 2013, retail sales person was the occupation with the largest population in North Port-Bradenton-Sarasota. The annual mean wage for this position was $25,720 in the North Port-Bradenton-Sarasota area, $24,200 in Florida, and $25,370 in the United States.

✓ In the Sarasota County School District, 52% of the students were eligible for free/reduced price lunch.

✓ Single family home prices began increasing again in 2012.

✓ January-March of every year from 2008-2013 had the most visitors in paid lodging while July-September had the fewest visitors over the same years.

What data is most important to you in this domain of well-being?

Let us know and we'll include it as we continue to update these indicators!

EMPLOYMENT

Unemployment Rate

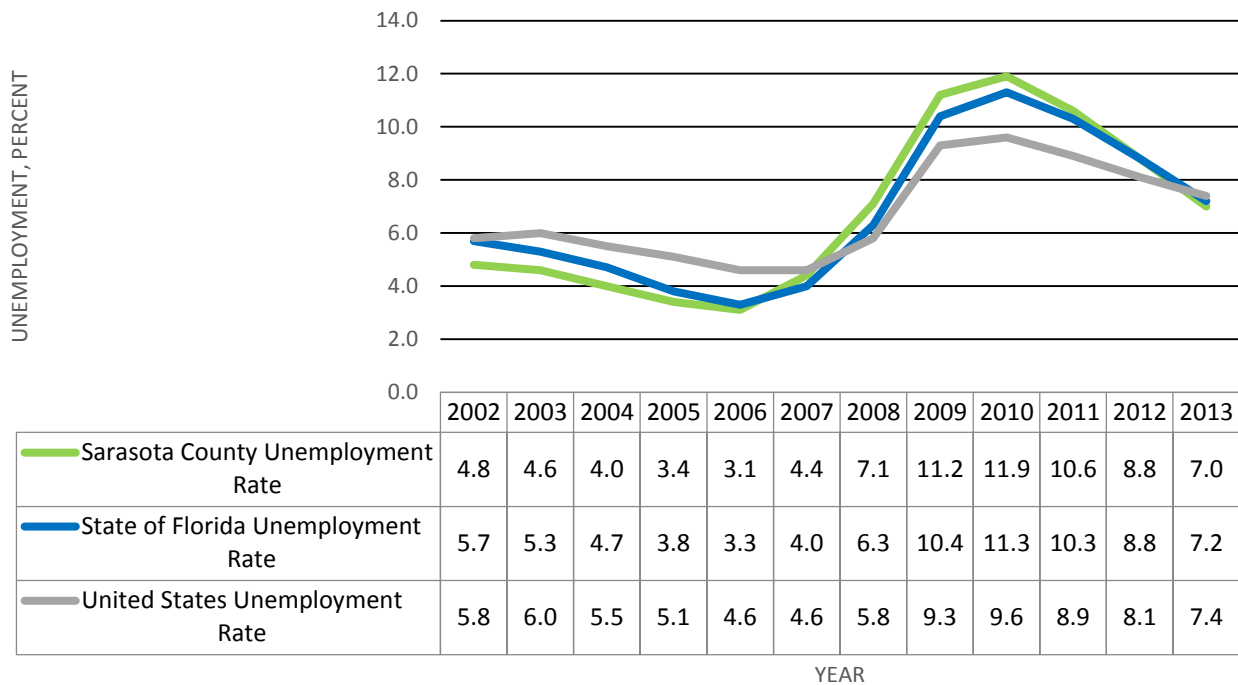This data shows the unemployment rate in the United States, Florida, and Sarasota County.

	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013
Sarasota County Unemployment Rate	4.8	4.6	4.0	3.4	3.1	4.4	7.1	11.2	11.9	10.6	8.8	7.0
State of Florida Unemployment Rate	5.7	5.3	4.7	3.8	3.3	4.0	6.3	10.4	11.3	10.3	8.8	7.2
United States Unemployment Rate	5.8	6.0	5.5	5.1	4.6	4.6	5.8	9.3	9.6	8.9	8.1	7.4

Figure 33: Bureau of Labor Statistics, Local Area Unemployment Statistics

This data shows a relatively steep increase in the unemployment rate starting in 2007 and continuing to increase through the year 2010. The timing of the unemployment rate increase aligns with the 2007 financial crisis timeline. The spike in the unemployment rate indicates poor economic health. This may lead to consequences, such as the reduction in an individual's disposable income and the obsolescence of the laborer's skills.

As seen through the trend lines, the unemployment rate followed a similar pattern on the county, state, and national level. While the trends are similar, starting in 2008, Sarasota County maintained a higher average unemployment rate than Florida and the United States until 2012. Beginning in 2010, the unemployment rate decreases. However, as of 2013, the unemployment rate had yet to reach the pre-recession unemployment levels.

CAVEAT: The unemployment rate only includes those actively looking for a job. Thus, the unemployment rate does not reflect the presence of discouraged laborers that stop looking for work.

EMPLOYMENT

Unemployment Rate by Race and Ethnicity

This data shows the five year estimate (2008-2012) of the unemployment rate by race and ethnicity in Sarasota County.
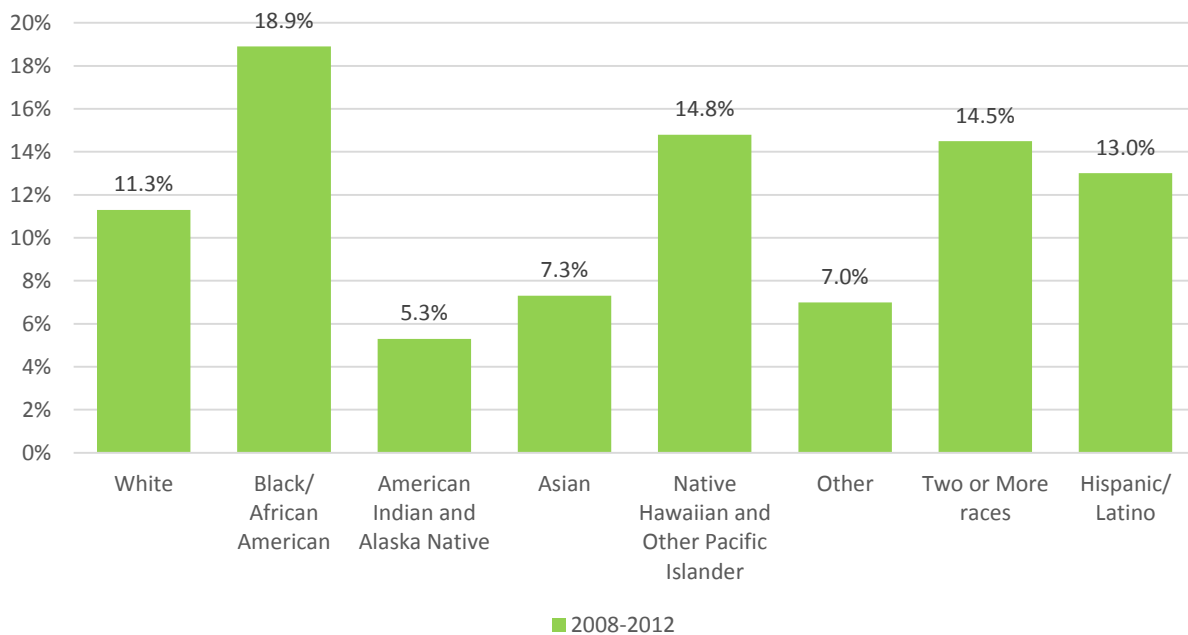

Figure 34: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey.

This data allows us to visualize how unemployment translates across different groups in a community by recognizing the varied unemployment rates. Unemployment is not proportional among various race and ethnic groups, as illustrated by the varied percentages across the board. This data illustrates a higher unemployment rate for laborers who identify as black/African American than laborers with other racial or ethnic identities, followed by people who identify as Native Hawaiian and other Pacific Islander and people who identify with two or more races.

CAVEAT: This unemployment data was collected from a different source than the data used to calculate the overall unemployment rate (see unemployment rate indicator). Thus, the unemployment data is different between the two and the data is not comparable.

EMPLOYMENT

Unemployment Rate by Age

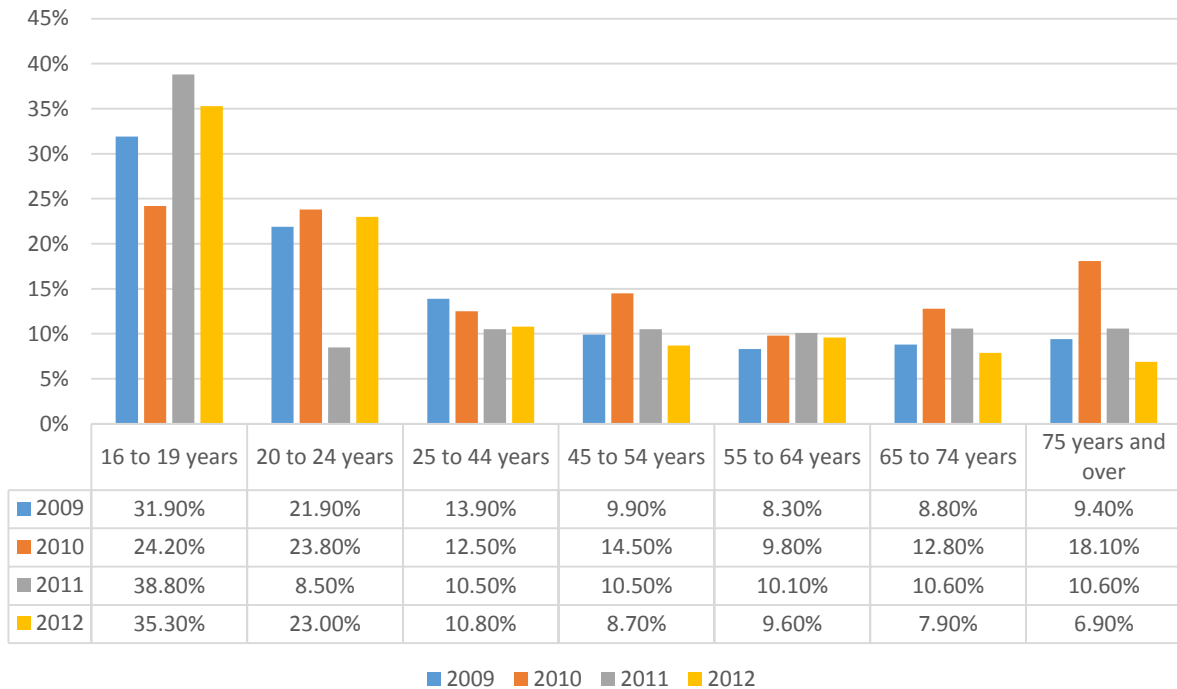This data shows the unemployment rate by age in Sarasota County from 2009 through 2012.

	16 to 19 years	20 to 24 years	25 to 44 years	45 to 54 years	55 to 64 years	65 to 74 years	75 years and over
■ 2009	31.90%	21.90%	13.90%	9.90%	8.30%	8.80%	9.40%
■ 2010	24.20%	23.80%	12.50%	14.50%	9.80%	12.80%	18.10%
■ 2011	38.80%	8.50%	10.50%	10.50%	10.10%	10.60%	10.60%
■ 2012	35.30%	23.00%	10.80%	8.70%	9.60%	7.90%	6.90%

■ 2009 ■ 2010 ■ 2011 ■ 2012

Figure 15: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey.

The average unemployment rate over the span of four years decreases across the age groups, with an increase in the average beginning with the 65 to 74 year old age group. Age may be used as a proxy for experience and qualifications; generally, younger people have less work experience than older people who have had more time in the work force. Conversely, older adults may experience job loss because of a perceived age bias, mandatory retirement, or the inability to keep pace with advances in technology.

CAVEAT: This unemployment data was collected from a different source than the data used to calculate the overall unemployment rate (see unemployment rate indicator). Thus, the unemployment data is different between the two and the data is not comparable.

As well, the data are one year estimates, which are less reliable than the three or five year estimates provided by the American Community Survey. However, one year estimates allow us to look at trends over time whereas multi-year estimates would overlap. Also, one year data is the most current data.

EMPLOYMENT

Millennials and the Economy

"Young adults are now more likely to live with their parents and less likely to own a home than they were before the recession. And more than half of Americans ages 25-34 have saved less than $10,000 for retirement, increasing the odds that they will lack sufficient savings to retire in their old age."

–Sarah Ayres, Center for American Progress

"Millennial" is the label for the current young adult and teenage population, following Generation X. This includes individuals born between 1980 and 2000 (approximation).

Unemployment

Overall, unemployment has been much higher for young people than older adults. This can have large, negative impacts on the career development of a young person and their overall lifetime earnings. The early years of one's career are key to skill development and skill maintenance. The delayed career development also indirectly affects an individual's capacity to make other decisions, such as building savings or buying a home. Thus, many aspects of an individual's adult development can be delayed as a result of the high unemployment rate. The Center for American Progress estimates that, in April 2010, around 1 million Millennials in the United States were unemployed for at least 6 months and that they will each lose about $22,000 in income over the course of 10 years. This is a result of the lower wage associated with delayed experience and development; "long-term unemployment robs young people of the opportunity to gain the skills, experiences, and connections that translate into higher wages."

Student Loans

Earning a college degree is considered as a necessary step to advance one's economic well-being. Unfortunately, the high cost of education paired with student loans are proving to be a financial strain on young adults. "Many experts have raised concerns that the burden of student loan debt is inhibiting growth in the broader economy" (Ayres). According to the Center for American Progress, over the past 30 years, there was an approximate 1,000% cost increase to earn a college degree. Nationwide, there is $1.2 trillion dollars of student loan debt and one out of every four student borrowers are not on track with their loan payments.

Sources:
Ayres, Sarah "Middle-Out for Millennials," Center for American Progress, October 2013, americanprogress.org.

Ayres, Sarah "The High Cost of Youth Unemployment," Center for American Progress, April 2013, americanprogress.org.

How will the current poor economic opportunities for Millennials impact the Sarasota County economy in the long run?

EMPLOYMENT

Percent Change in People Employed*

The data shows percent change in the total number of people employed as opposed to the percent without a job and looking for work in Sarasota County.
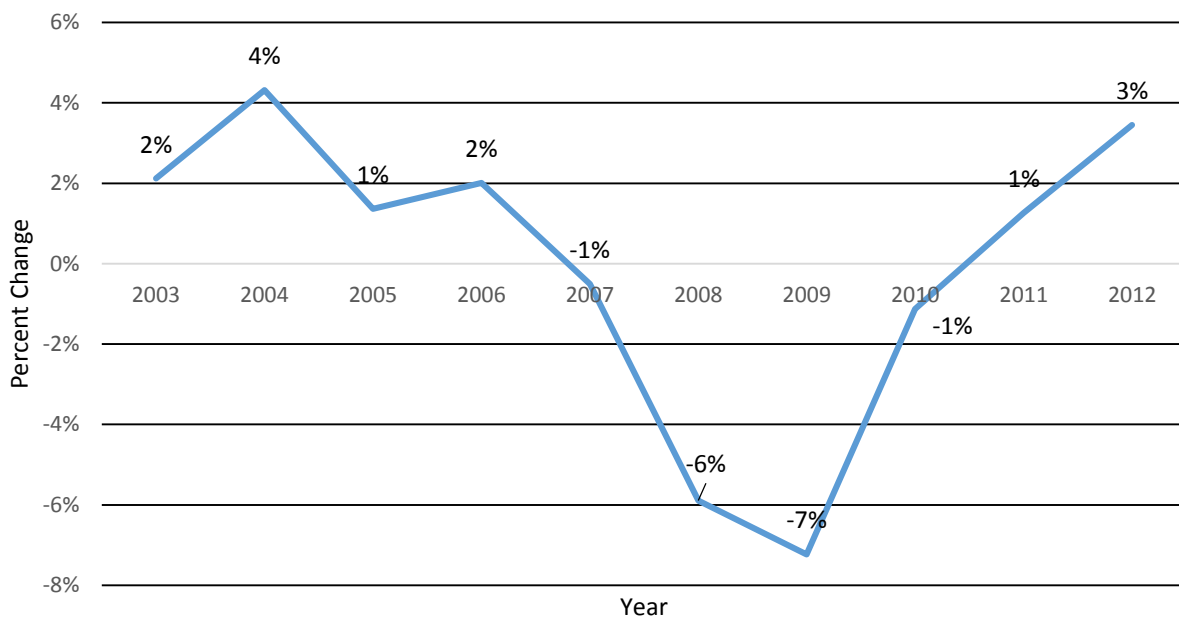

Figure 36: Bureau of Labor Statistics, Local Area Unemployment Statistics

Percent change in employment illustrates the percent change in people employed in Sarasota County. From 2007 through 2010, there were negative changes in the level of employment. This pattern is reflective of the increase in unemployment from 2007-2010. During this period, the people employed declined. In 2009 there was the largest percent decrease in employed people, -7%.

CAVEAT: Rates were calculated by the SCOPE team using Bureau of Labor Statistics Local Area Unemployment Statistics data. This is calculated by subtracting number of people employed by the number of people employed in the previous year and dividing that by the number of people employed in the previous year.

*Calculated by the SCOPE team

EMPLOYMENT

Percent of Population in Labor Force

This data shows the percent of the 16-year-old and older population that are part of the labor force.
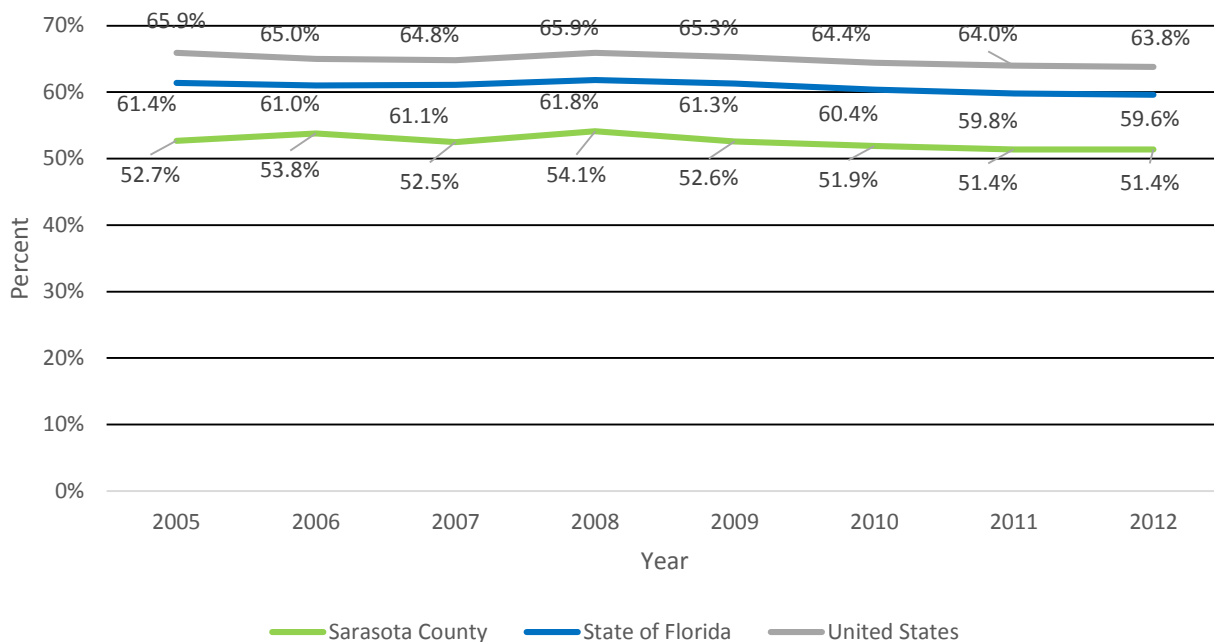
Figure 37: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey.

This indicator is important because it develops a scope of the percentage of the working age population that is part of the labor force. The percent of the population in the labor force fluctuated some over the years. Sarasota County has a lower percent of the working age population in the labor force than both the state and the nation, while the nation has the highest percent of the working age population in the labor force, from 2005 to 2012.

CAVEAT: The data are one-year estimates, which are less reliable than the three or five-year estimates provided by the American Community Survey. However, one year estimates allow us to look at trends over time whereas multi-year estimates would overlap. Also, one year data is the most current data.

What is the relationship between labor force participation and unemployment rate?

People leave the labor force for various reasons. People may exit the labor force when they become discouraged and stop looking for jobs because they were unable to find work. Young adults (or anyone) may choose to return to school. Also, people leave the labor force when they retire. In other words, people who are originally unemployed may drop out of the labor force for one of the previous (or another) reason, linking the labor force and unemployment rate. Thus, the decrease in unemployment may not mean an increase in employment; rather it may mean a decrease in the labor force.

EMPLOYMENT

Largest Occupations in May 2013

This indicator illustrates the occupations with the largest populations in North Port-Bradenton-Sarasota metropolitan area.
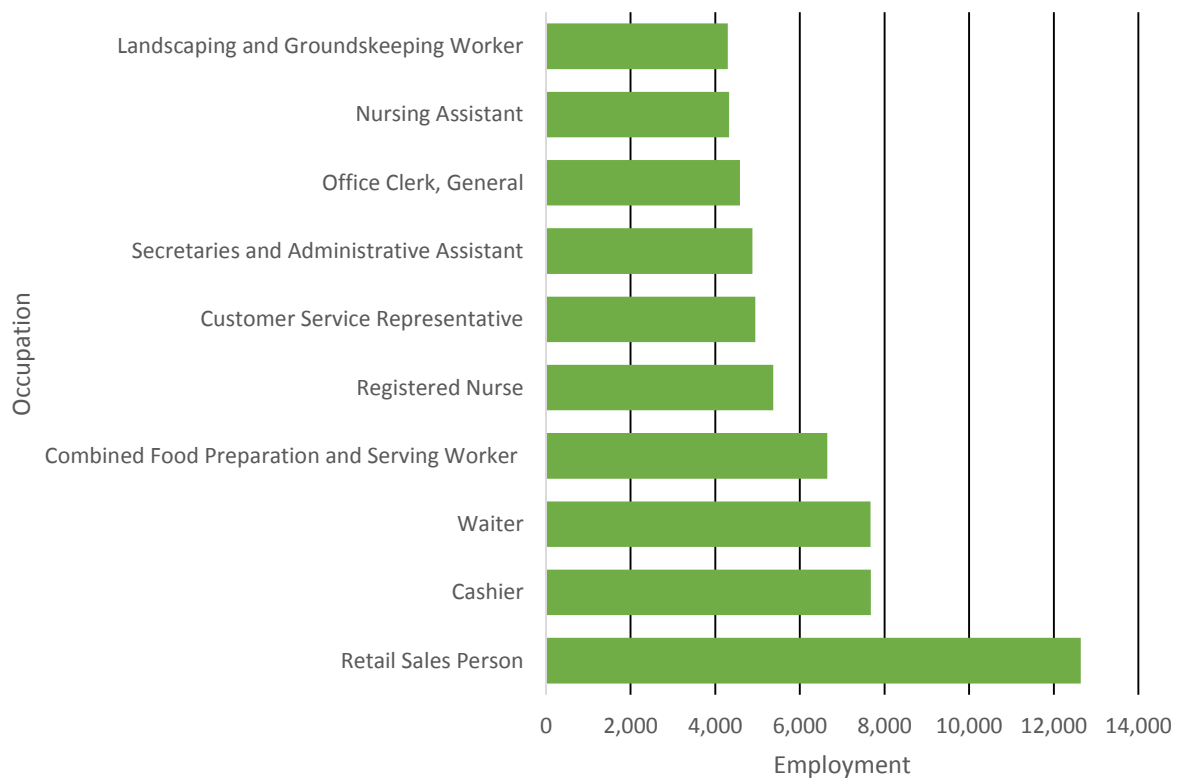

Figure 38: Bureau of Labor Statistics, U.S. Department of Labor, Occupational Employment Statistics

According to this data, the largest occupation in the North Port-Bradenton-Sarasota metropolitan area is the Retail Sales Person position (12,640), followed by Cashier (7,680) and Waiter (7,670).

Note: The Combined Food Preparation and Serving Worker category includes fast food.

EMPLOYMENT

Annual Mean Wage by Occupation in May 2013

This data shows the annual mean wage of each of North Port-Bradenton-Sarasota metropolitan area's top occupations in 2013.
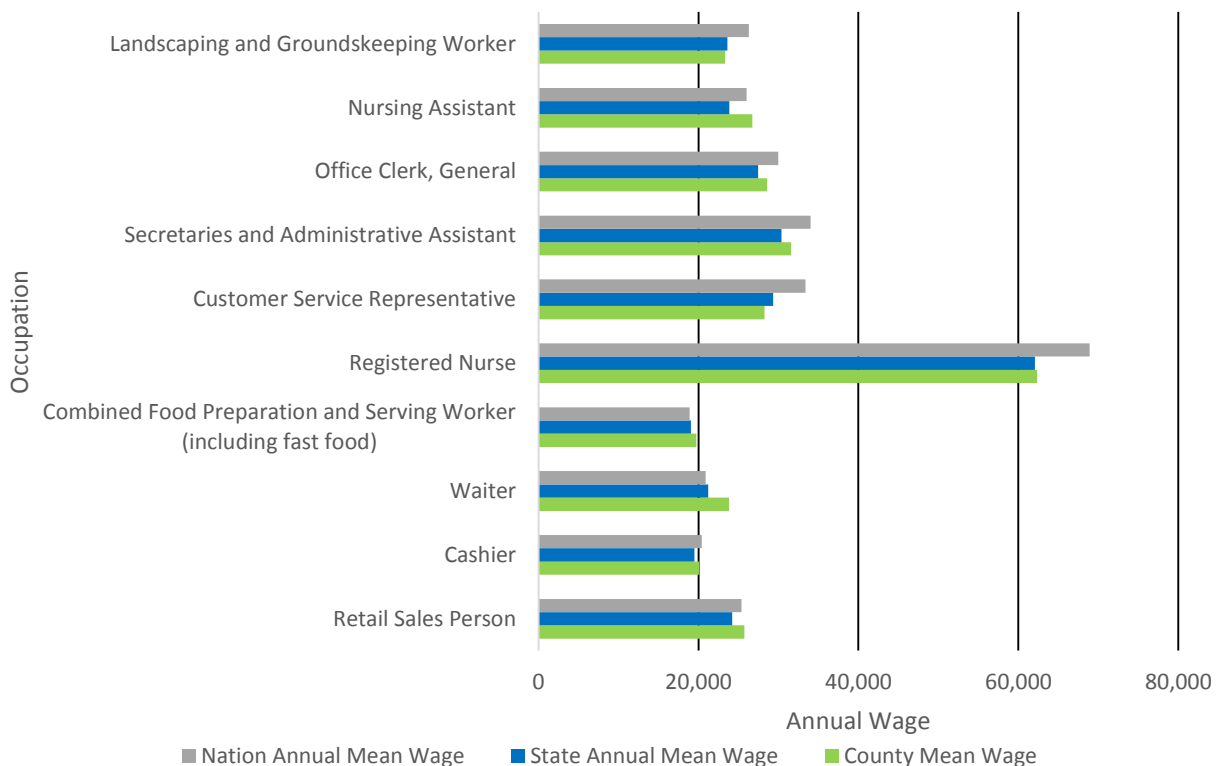
Figure 39: Bureau of Labor Statistics, U.S. Department of Labor, Occupational Employment Statistics

The annual wages of these occupations are presented for the North Port-Bradenton-Sarasota metropolitan area, Florida, and the United States. There is a similar trend for the annual mean wage of each occupation across the Northport-Bradenton-Sarasota area, Florida, and the United States. Out of the top ten occupations, the Registered Nurse position has the highest mean wage for the Northport-Bradenton-Sarasota area ($62,340), Florida ($62,060), and the United States ($68,910), with the Northport-Bradenton-Sarasota area wage being slightly higher than Florida. With the exception of the Customer Service Representative and Landscaping and Groundskeeping Worker positions, the Northport-Bradenton-Sarasota area tends to have a higher annual mean wage for these occupations than Florida.

Note: The Combined Food Preparation and Serving Worker category includes fast food.
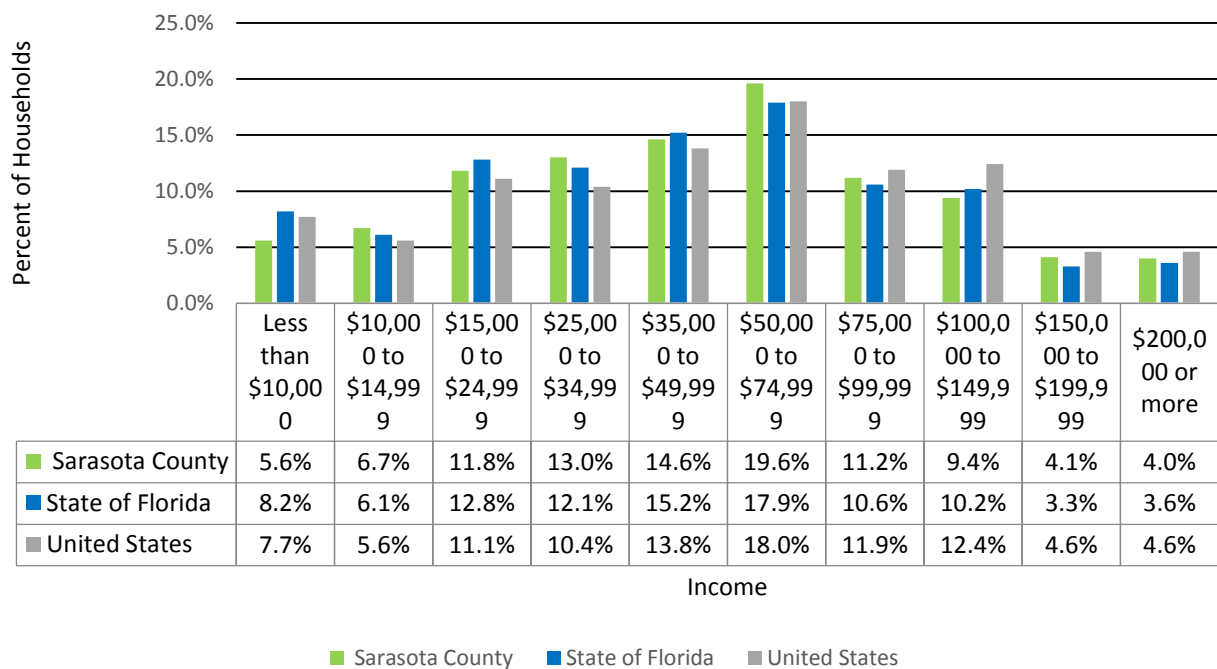
INCOME

2012 Distribution of Income across Households

Income	Less than $10,000	$10,000 to $14,999	$15,000 to $24,999	$25,000 to $34,999	$35,000 to $49,999	$50,000 to $74,999	$75,000 to $99,999	$100,000 to $149,999	$150,000 to $199,999	$200,000 or more
Sarasota County	5.6%	6.7%	11.8%	13.0%	14.6%	19.6%	11.2%	9.4%	4.1%	4.0%
State of Florida	8.2%	6.1%	12.8%	12.1%	15.2%	17.9%	10.6%	10.2%	3.3%	3.6%
United States	7.7%	5.6%	11.1%	10.4%	13.8%	18.0%	11.9%	12.4%	4.6%	4.6%

Figure 40: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey.

The distribution of income follows a similar pattern across Sarasota County, Florida, and the United States. The income range that represents the largest percent of households is $50,000 to $74,999: 19.6% of Sarasota County's households, 17.9% of Florida's households, and 18% of the Nation's households. In Sarasota County, the range with the highest income ($200,000 or more) has 4% of the households while the range with the lowest income (less than $10,000) is representative of the income for 5.6% of households. The majority (71%) of households earn between $10,000 and $74,999.

CAVEAT: The ranges for the income groups are not equal intervals. Rather, the range increases as the income level goes up; for example, $10,000 to $14,999 is only a range of $9,999 whereas $150,000 to $199,999 is a range of $49,999. This inconsistent grouping may visually present a more equal distribution of income than if the range of the income groups were consistent across the board. One could assume that a consistent grouping of income would cause the graph to be skewed to the right— thus the mean income would be greater than the median income. This illustrates one of the problems with simply measuring per capita income to analyze the state of an economy rather than taking into account the income distribution. As well, the data are one year estimates, which are less reliable than the three or five year estimates provided by the American Community Survey. However, one year estimates allow us to look at trends over time whereas multi-year estimates would overlap. Also, one year data is the most current data.

INCOME
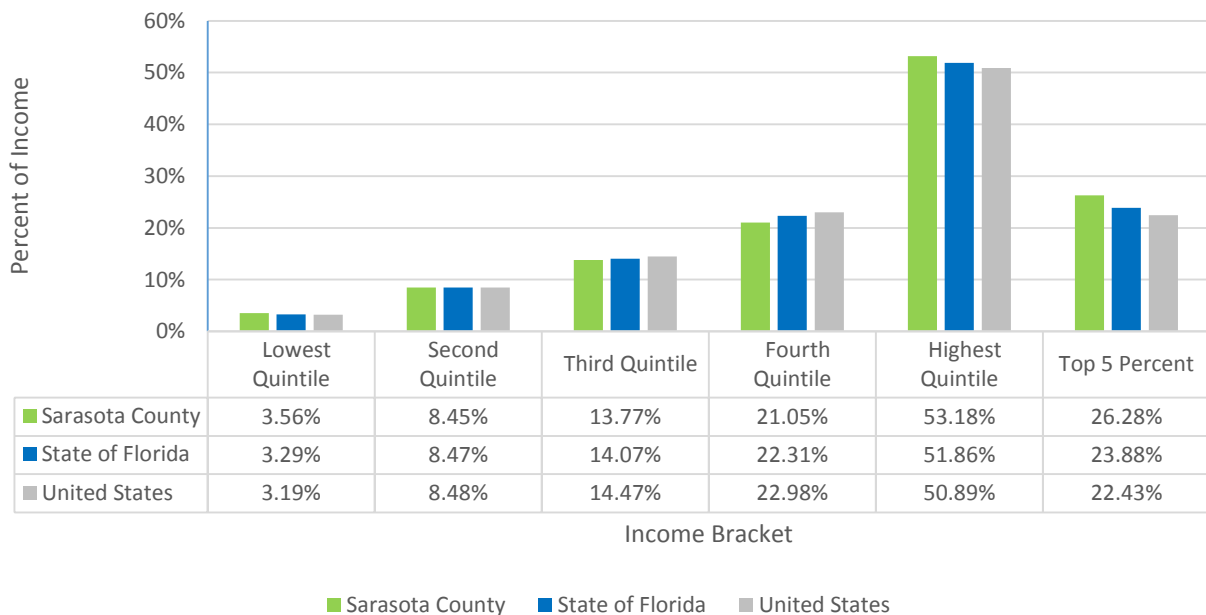
2012 Distribution of Income by Quintiles

	Lowest Quintile	Second Quintile	Third Quintile	Fourth Quintile	Highest Quintile	Top 5 Percent
■ Sarasota County	3.56%	8.45%	13.77%	21.05%	53.18%	26.28%
■ State of Florida	3.29%	8.47%	14.07%	22.31%	51.86%	23.88%
■ United States	3.19%	8.48%	14.47%	22.98%	50.89%	22.43%

Income Bracket

■ Sarasota County   ■ State of Florida   ■ United States

Figure 41: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey.

When income distribution is measured by quintiles, the data is illustrating how much of the aggregate income each fifth (20%) of the population earns. The population segments are categorized by how much the households earn. For example, the lowest quintile has the fifth of the population that earns the least. Separate from the quintile categories, the percent of income earned by the top 5% illustrates the income of the 5% of the population that earned the most.

The distribution of income is highly disproportionate, as seen by the large percentage of income attained by the highest quintile; the top fifth of earners in Sarasota County earned 53.18% of the aggregate household income while the bottom fifth earned 3.56% of the aggregate household income. This illustrates a clear income inequality in Sarasota County. Further, taken together, the first, second, and third quintiles attain 25.78% of the aggregate income, the top 5% of earners in Sarasota County earn 26.28% of the income. This distribution pattern is similar for the state of Florida as well as the United States, illustrating the national income inequality dilemma is a problem present in Sarasota County.

Caveat: The data are one year estimates, which are less reliable than the three or five year estimates provided by the American Community Survey. However, one year estimates allow us to look at trends over time whereas multi-year estimates would overlap. Also, one year data is the most current data.

Should we be concerned about the distribution of income?

INCOME & UPWARD MOBILITY

A Sarasota Commuting Zone* child whose parents earn at the 25th percentile** will earn, on average, at the **39.2th percentile**. This measure, the **absolute upward mobility**, measures "the average economic outcome of a child from a below-median income family.

The average percentile** of a Sarasota Commuting Zone child born to parents earning the top 1 percent *less* the average percentile of a child born to parents earning in the bottom 1 percent *equals* **.304**. This measure, the **relative mobility**, "measures the difference in incomes between a child from a low income family vs. a high income family."

The odds that children, whose parents are in the lowest quintile, will reach the top quintile is **6.8%.**

Want to know more about income distribution? Check out Raj Chetty, Nathaniel Hendren, Patrick Kline, Emmanuel Saez, and Nicholas Turner's "The Equality of Opportunity Project" at equality-of-opportunity.org!

* These measures are for the Sarasota Commuting Zone, which is inclusive of Sarasota, Charlotte, De Soto, and Manatee Counties. According to "The Equality of Opportunity Project" "Commuting zones are similar to metro areas, but have the advantage of covering rural areas as well."
**The percentile is based on the national income distribution.

Source: Chetty, Raj, Nathaniel Hendren, Patrick Kline, Emmanuel Saez, Nicholas Turner, "The Equality of Opportunity Project," www.equality-of-opportunity.org

INCOME

Per Capita Personal Income by Type in Sarasota County

21,756

Per Capita Net Earnings (by place of work)

+

10,029

Per Capita Personal Current Transfers

+

23,636

Per Capita Dividends, Interest, and Rent

=

55,422

Per Capita Personal Income

Source: Bureau of Economic Analysis, "CA30 Regional Economic Profiles"
http://www.bea.gov/itable/

CAVEAT: This data is per capita, and thus it does not illustrate the distribution of personal income across the population

What are the different forms of income?

Below are the definitions of the different forms of income that make up Per Capita Personal Income, as defined by the Bureau of Economic Analysis.

Per Capita Net Earnings: "the sum of wages and salaries, supplements to wages and salaries, and proprietors' income- less contributions for government social insurance, plus an adjustment to convert earnings by place of work to a place of residence basis"

Per Capita Personal Current Transfers: "payments to persons for which no current services are performed. It consists of payments to individuals and to nonprofit institutions by Federal, state, and local governments and by businesses"

Per Capita Dividends, Interest, and Rent: Dividends: "the payments…made by corporations located in the United States or abroad to persons who are U.S. residents"

Interest: "interest income (monetary and imputed)"

Rent: "the net income of persons from the rental of real property except for the income of persons primarily engaged in the real estate business; the imputed net rental income of the owner-occupants of nonfarm dwellings; and the royalties received from patents, copyrights, and the right to natural resources"

POVERTY

What is the poverty threshold for 2013?

One Person: $11,892

Two People: $15,156

Three People: $18,552

Four People: $23,836

Five People: $28,235

Six People: $31,932

Seven People: $36,267

Eight People: $40,269

Nine People: $47,990

There is more than one way to measure poverty. The Census Bureau uses set income amounts to determine the poverty threshold; a family or individual who earns an income less than the poverty threshold is labeled as living in poverty. This measure does have limitations in illustrating the standard of living for families and individuals in the US, as the Census Bureau stresses that it does not embody or address all family and household needs. One shortcoming is that the threshold varies by age and family size, but not by geographical location (within the United States).

Note: The thresholds listed are weighted average thresholds. Thus, they do not illustrate variations that are dependent upon number of related children under the age of 18 years. Nor do they represent the sole threshold for each category. For more specific thresholds, check out the United States Census Bureau's Poverty Thresholds. As well, these are the preliminary estimates for the 2013 weighted average poverty threshold.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Poverty Thresholds.

POVERTY

Percent of People in Poverty

	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012
■ Sarasota County	8.40%	8.40%	7.60%	9.10%	9%	8.10%	9.90%	12.70%	13.10%	11.70%	12.70%
■ State of Florida	12.80%	13%	11.90%	12.70%	12.60%	12.10%	13.30%	15%	16.50%	17%	17.20%
■ United States	12.10%	12.50%	12.70%	13.30%	13.30%	13%	13.20%	14.30%	15.30%	15.90%	15.90%

■ Sarasota County   ■ State of Florida   ■ United States
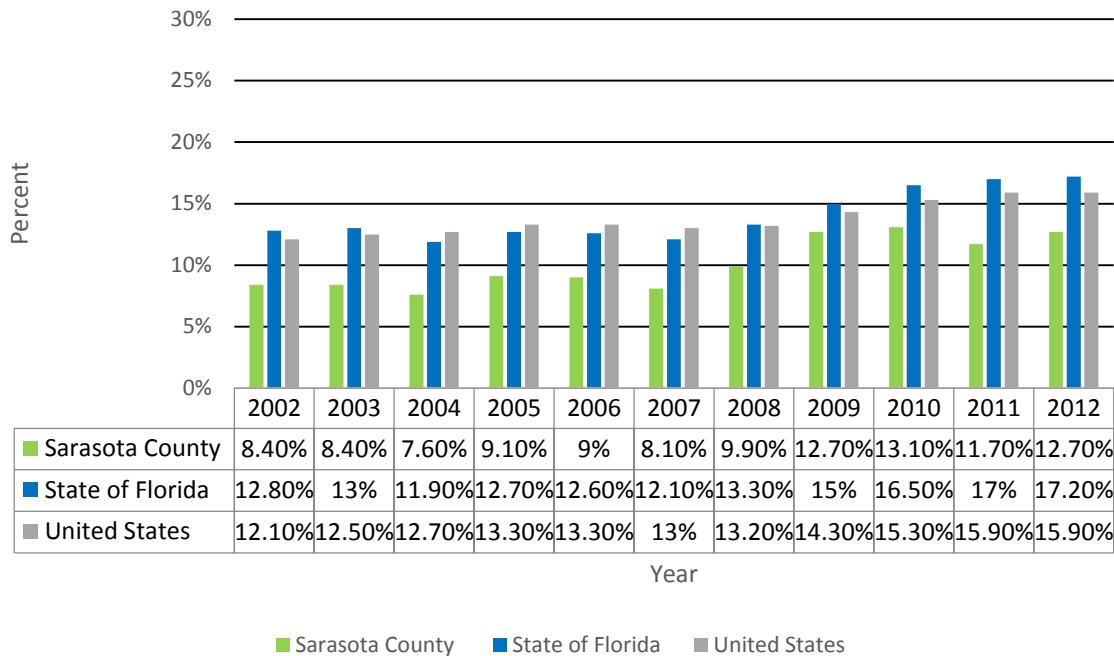
Figure 42: U.S. Census Bureau, Small Area Income and Poverty Estimates

From 2002 to 2012, Sarasota County continuously had a lower percent of people in poverty than Florida and the United States. While the data fluctuates from a higher to a lower percent of people in poverty, the percent of people in poverty in 2012 (12.7%) was greater than the percent of people in poverty in 2002 (8.4%). Thus, there has been an overall increase in the percent of people in poverty over this time span. The highest percent of people in poverty was 13.1% for Sarasota County in 2010, 17% for Florida in 2011, and 15.9% for the United States in 2012.

POVERTY

Percent of People Under 18 Years Old in Poverty

	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012
■ Sarasota County	11.90%	13.30%	12.30%	13.20%	14.40%	13.10%	15.70%	20.90%	21.80%	19.30%	21.50%
■ State of Florida	17.70%	19.40%	17.30%	18.10%	17.60%	17.30%	18.40%	21.50%	23.60%	25.10%	25.60%
■ United States	16.70%	17.60%	17.80%	18.50%	18.30%	18%	18.20%	20%	21.60%	22.50%	22.60%

■ Sarasota County   ■ State of Florida   ■ United States
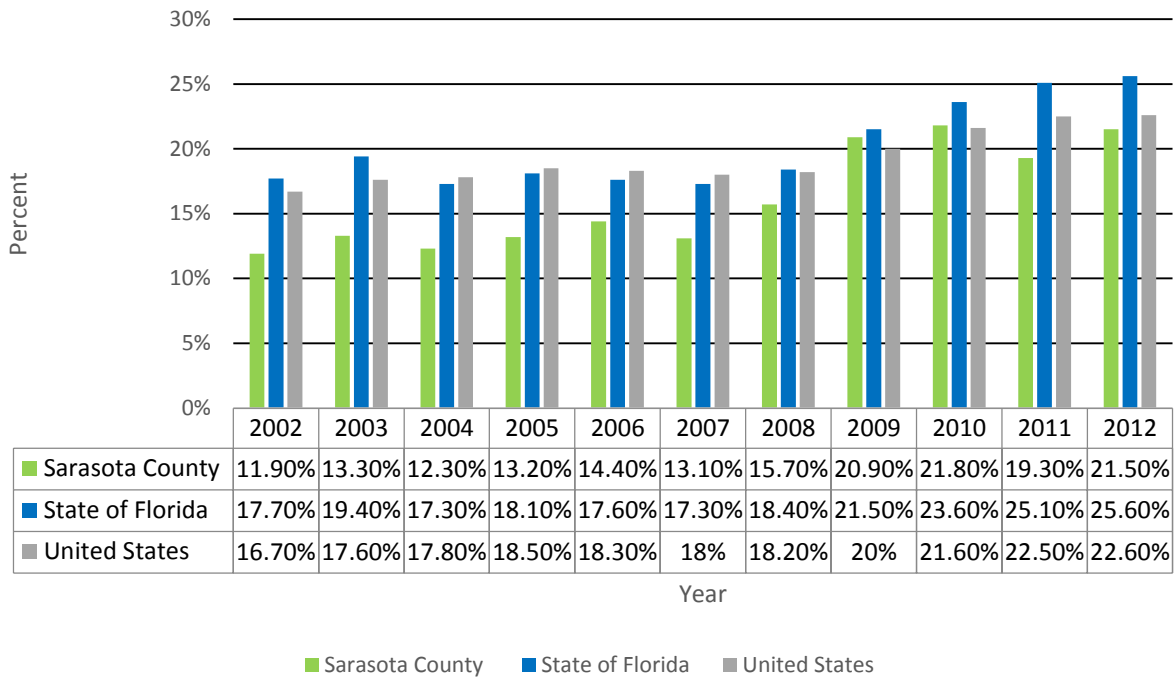
Figure 432: U.S. Census Bureau, Small Area Income and Poverty Estimates

Between 2002 and 2012, the percent of people under age 18 in poverty in Sarasota County did not reach below the percent of people under the age of 18 in poverty in 2002 (11.9%). Following 2002, there has been fluctuation in the percentage. However, the overall increase in the percent suggests that poverty is impacting a growing percent of young people. The highest percent was in 2010, with 21.8% of people under the age of 18 in poverty. Each year, Sarasota County had a lower percent than Florida and the United States. The highest percent of people under the age of 18 in poverty in Florida was 25.6% in 2012 and 22.66% for the United States in 2012.

Consider this!

How does the label of being a middle class society influence our perception of poverty and income inequality?

POVERTY

Percent of Households Receiving Food Stamps
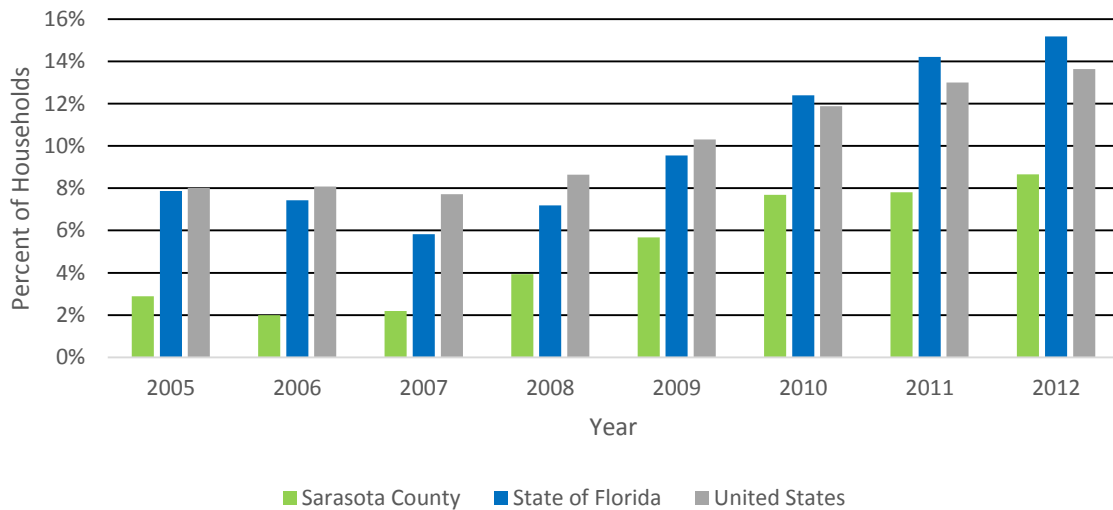
Figure 44: U.S. Census, American Community Survey.

From 2007 to 2012, the percent of households receiving food stamps increased in Sarasota County, Florida, and the United States. This illustrates an increased household demand for food stamps across the board. Overall, Sarasota County has a lower percent of households receiving food stamps than both Florida and the United States.

Reducing Federal Funding of SNAP

Estimates for the remainder of Fiscal Year 2014 (November 2013-September 2014) illustrate a **$379 million dollar decrease in SNAP benefits to Florida**, impacting **18% of the state population**, including **1,303,000 children** and **713,000 elderly people and people with disabilities**. Prior to the reduction, the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 (which ended November 1, 2013) increased SNAP benefits. Based on a $1.70-$2 per meal estimate provided by the Thrifty Food Plan, the reduction of SNAP benefits is equivalent to **"taking away 21 meals per month for a family of four, or 16 meals for a family of three."***

 ***Note: these are total meal reductions per family, not per person.**

Sources: Dean, Stacy and Dottie Rosenbaum, "SNAP Benefits Will be Cut for Nearly all Participants in November 2013," *Center on Budget and Policy Priorities*, cbpp.org.

Rosenbaum, Dorothy and Brynne Keith-Jennings, "November 1 SNAP Cuts Will Affect Millions of Children, Seniors, and People with Disabilities," *Center on Budget and Policy Priorities*, October 24, 2013 (updated January 9, 2014) http://www.cbpp.org/files/10-24-13fa.pdf.

POVERTY

Percent of Students Eligible for Free/Reduced Price Lunch

In the 2012-2013 School Year **58.57%** of Florida students and **52.08%** of students in Sarasota County school district were eligible for free/reduced price lunch. On average, from the 2008-09 academic year to the 2012-13 academic year, **55.04%** of Florida students and **47.80%** of students in Sarasota County school district were eligible for free/reduced price lunch.

Source: Florida Department of Education, www.fldoe.org.

Want to help fight hunger in Sarasota County? Get involved with **All Faith's Food Banks**! Check out their webpage: http://www.allfaithsfoodbank.org/index.php!

Need food assistance? Check out **All Faith's Food Bank** or the **USDA Food and Nutrition Services** to see if you qualify for assistance (http://www.fns.usda.gov/programs-and-services)!

Looking for ways to eat well on a budget? Check out http://www.choosemyplate.gov/ for some tips!

AFFORDABILITY

Existing Single Family Home Median Sale Price

This indicator shows the median sales price for an existing single family home from 2002 to 2013. This presents data for both the Sarasota-Bradenton-Venice metropolitan area and the United States.
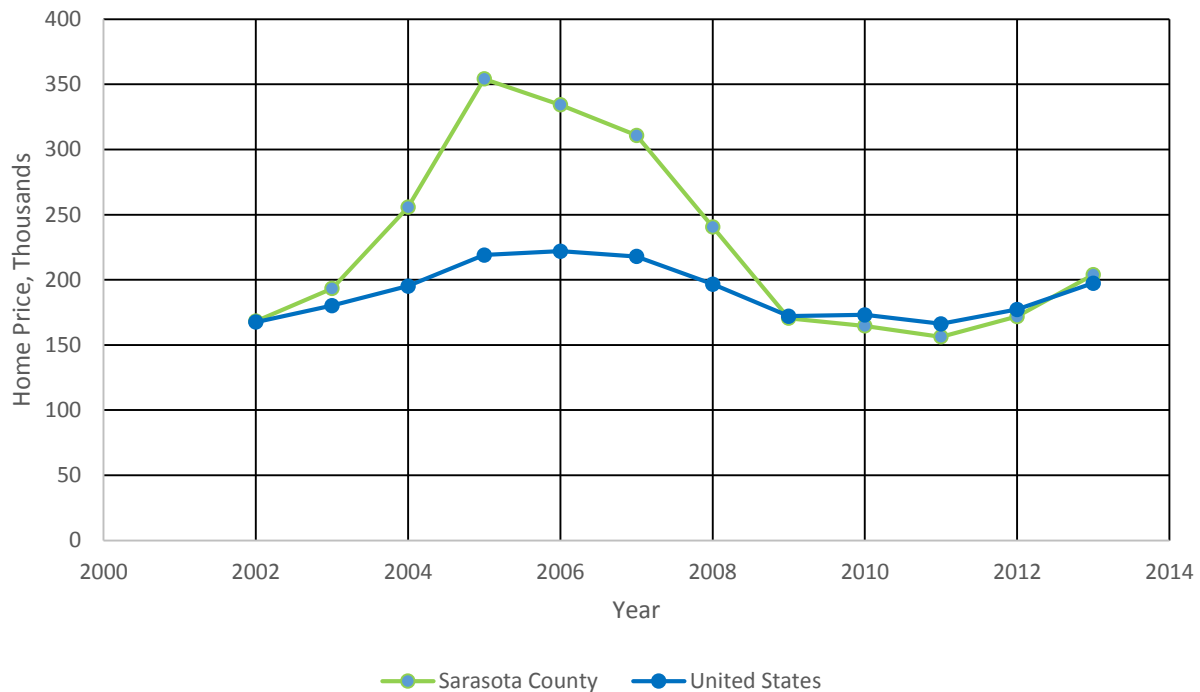
Figure 45: Nation Association of Realtors

Home prices were increasing in Sarasota-Bradenton-Venice metropolitan area from 2002 to 2005, pushing prices above the National median sales prices. The increase in subprime lending and the following increase in demand for housing may be the cause of this home price increase in the Sarasota-Bradenton-Venice metropolitan area. The increase in demand and subsequent price increase may also be a result of people buying homes, improving them, and putting them back on the market (or "flipping" homes). This data illustrates a decline in home prices starting in 2006. When home values decreased, many people owed more on their homes than their homes were worth. Many people with adjustable rate mortgages could no longer afford their payments and defaulted on their mortgages. Many people who bought homes to flip them defaulted. One could conclude that house foreclosures lead to further declines in housing prices due to increased housing supply unmatched by demand. This data shows housing prices began increasing again after 2011.

AFFORDABILITY

2013 Total Real Just Property Value by Parts, Billions $ (total 53.36 billion)
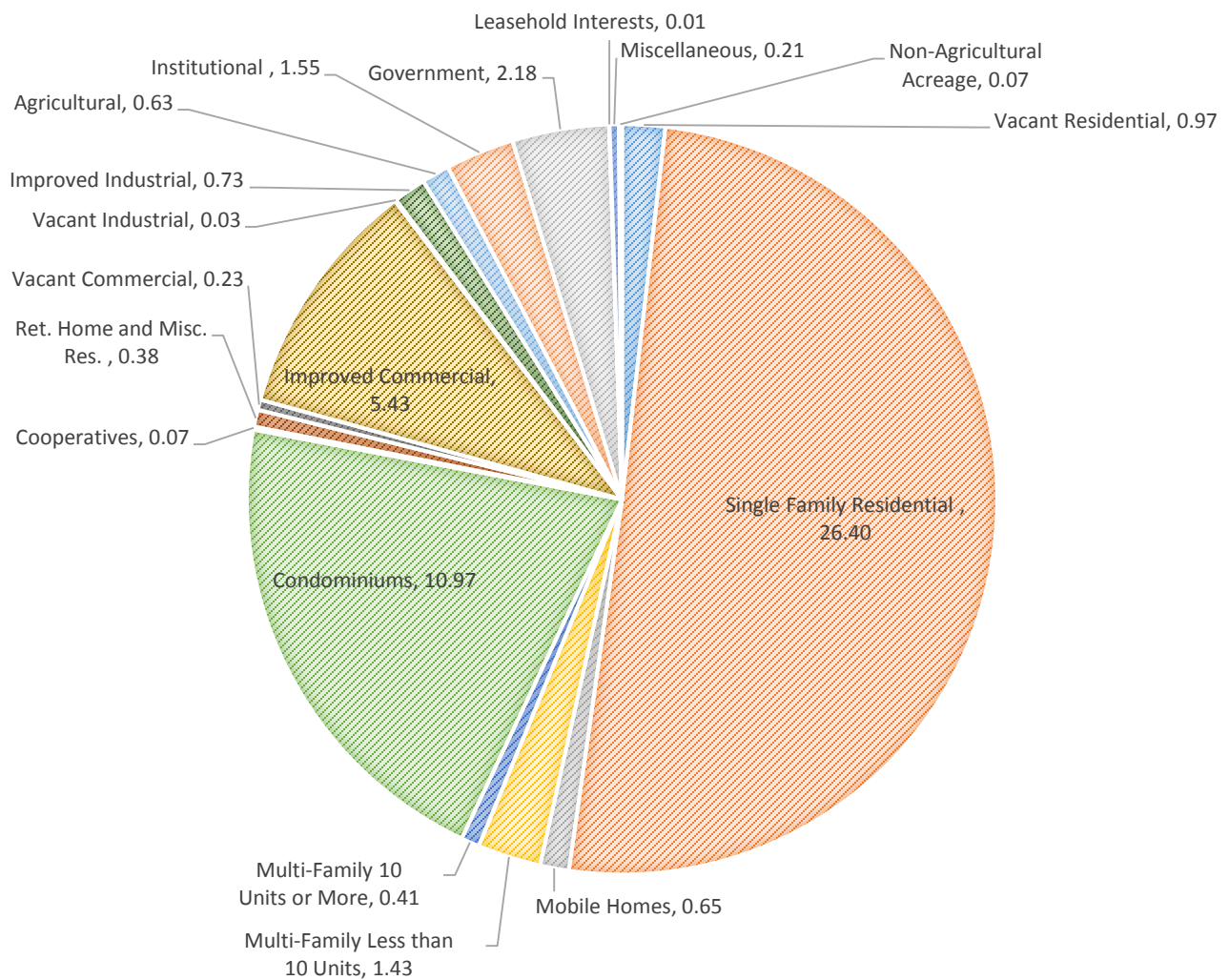
Figure 46: Sarasota County Property Appraiser.

The following forms of Sarasota County property are included in the pie chart above: Residential (Vacant Residential, Single Family Residential, Mobile Homes, Multi-Family Residential with less than 10 Units, Multi-Family Residential with More than 10 Units, Condominiums, Cooperatives, and Retirement Homes and Miscellaneous Residential), Commercial (Vacant Commercial and Improved Commercial), Industrial (Vacant Industrial and Improved Industrial), Agricultural, Institutional, Government, Leasehold Interests, Miscellaneous, and Non-Agricultural Acreage.

In Sarasota County, single family residential makes up the largest portion of the just value, followed by condominiums and improved commercial. Leasehold interests made up the smallest portion.

Tourism

Visitors in Paid Lodging

This indicator presents the visitors that stayed in paid lodging in Sarasota County over each quarter from January 2008-December 2013.
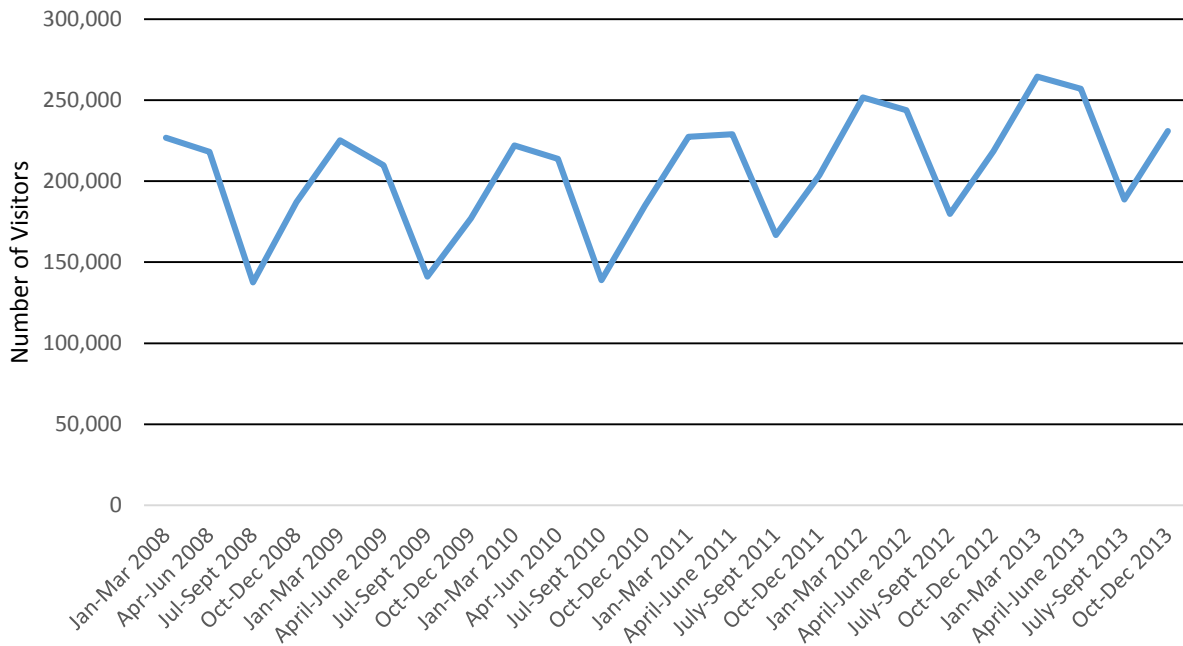
Figure 47: Visit Sarasota County.

The seasonal pattern in this data is very consistent. January-March is the consistent peak over the years, while July-September are the lowest data points over the years. This follows the expected pattern of decreased tourism in months that have higher temperatures and greater tourism in months with cooler weather. This idea is embodied in the term "snow birds," illustrating a pattern of the seasonal change in tourism that is consistent over time.

Tourism

Estimated Direct Expenditures of Visitors

This indicator illustrates the estimated direct spending of visitors in Sarasota County over each quarter from January 2008-December 2013.
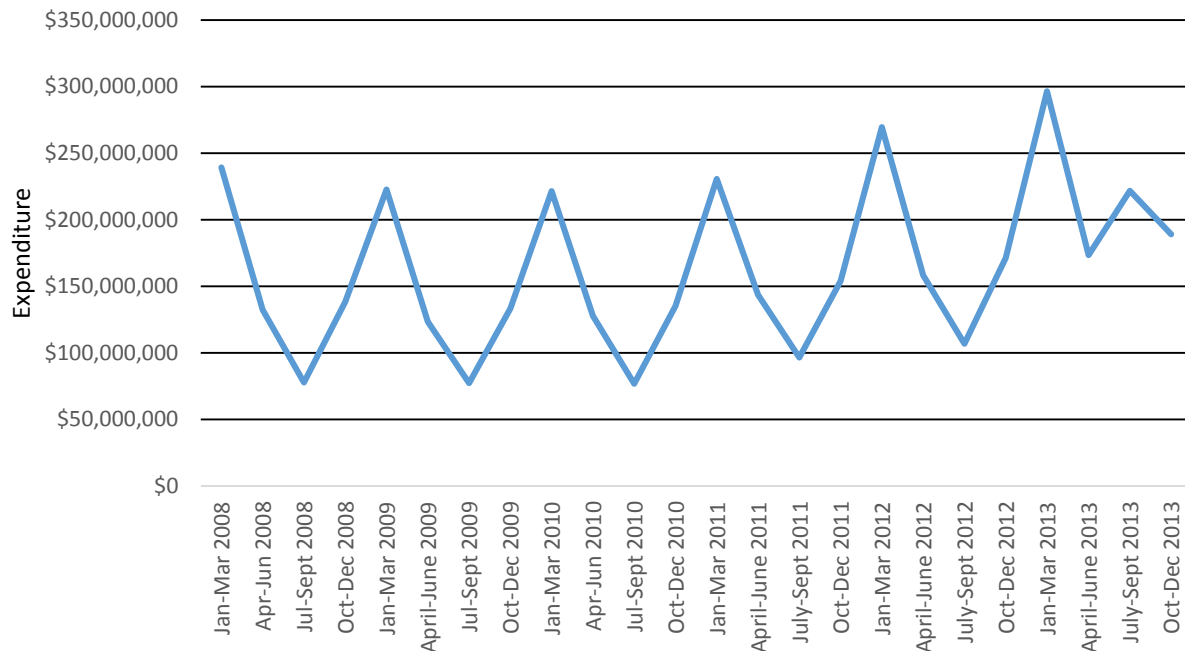
Figure 48: Visit Sarasota County.

This set of data reflects the visitors in paid lodging, which is intuitive because as the visitors increase, one would expect an increase in the visitor expenditure in the area. Thus, the peak is in January-March while the trough is in July-September. However, in 2013, this pattern is broken in July-September when the estimated direct expenditures increases relative to April-June.

Tourism

Average Hotel-Motel Daily Rate per Year

This indicator presents the average hotel-motel daily rate in Sarasota County for each year from 2005-2013.
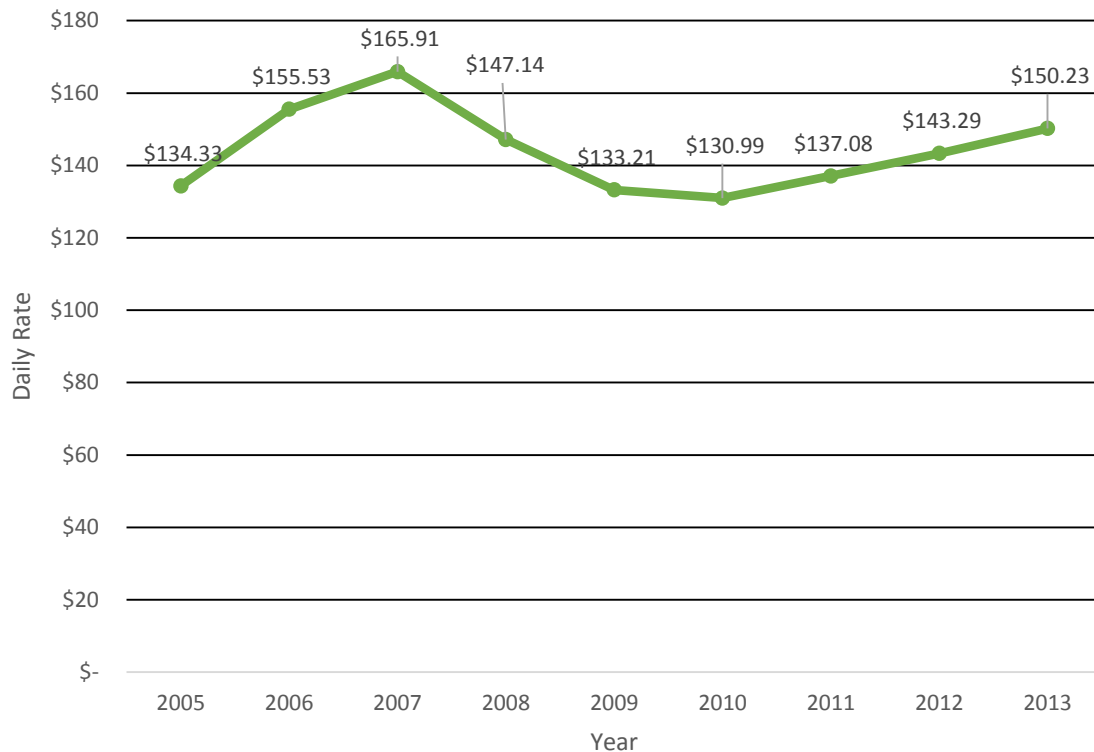
Figure 49: Visit Sarasota County.

This data shows the change in the average hotel-motel rate over the years, with an overall increase from 2005 through 2007, a decrease from 2007 through 2010, and an increase from 2010 to 2013. The highest daily rate was in 2007, $165.91. The lowest average daily rate was in 2010, $130.99.

Now that you have reviewed the full set of indicators for the ECONOMIC HEALTH domain of well-being, which indicators strike you as significant?

During several workshops hosted by SCOPE with partner organizations, resident participants placed an emphasis on several indicators that they identified as critical to assessing the well-being of Sarasota County's Economic Health. These included the percent of the population in the labor force and indicators that illustrated the varied quality of living in Sarasota County.

Let's review the recent trends in those indicators:

SARASOTA COUNTY

Percent of Population in Labor Force
(2005 → 2012)

-3.19%

Percent of People in Poverty
(2002 → 2012)

+51.2%

Percent of People Under Age 18 in Poverty
(2002 → 2012)

+80.67%

"The good we secure for ourselves is precarious and uncertain until it is secured for all of us and incorporated into our common life."

- Jane Addams

TRENDS WE ARE KEEPING OUR EYE ON

Unemployment Rate

Unemployment rate is a frequently referenced measure of economic health. It illustrates whether or not the economy is functioning at full capacity and it indicates the ability for an individual looking for employment to work and earn a living.

Percent of Households Receiving Food Stamps

Over the past few years (through 2012), the percent of households receiving food stamps has increased in Sarasota County. However, on November 1, 2013, SNAP benefits were cut. Thus, we will keep our eye out to see how this cut impacts the percent of households receiving food stamps.

Single Family Home Median Sales Price

After the 2007 financial crisis, people are keeping their eye on real estate! Are prices increasing to where they were before the bubble burst? Are homes becoming affordable? We'll keep our eye on the prices to see!

We encourage your own analysis of these indicators. Our intent is to spark conversation about issues you see in the data and to inspire action that comes from our community.

What indicators did we not include that would best show the overall economic health of Sarasota County?

About Our Sources

U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics
www.bls.gov

The U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics is a federal agency predominantly concerned with the collection, analysis and distribution of labor economics and statistical data. The BLS seeks and provides statistical data to other federal agencies, U.S. Congress, national, state and local governments, private entities and the American public. The Bureau of Labor Statistics concerns itself with current economic situations and changing dynamics. It also works to determine labor wages to maintain decent standards of living within the United States.

U.S. Census Bureau
census.gov

The U.S. Census Bureau works under the authority of the United States Code to collect and provide both demographic and economic data. The U.S. Census Bureau is responsible for conducing the decennial Population and Housing Census, the bi-decennial Economic Census and Census of Governments, the annual American Community Survey, as well as many other economic and demographic surveys. The U.S. Census Bureau also collects data on a variety of economic indicators. The data is used to determine allocation of federal funding to local, state and federal governments, the distribution of congressional seats, and to determine which community services to provide to the people.

U.S. Bureau of Economic Analysis
www.bea.gov

"*Promote a better understanding of the U.S. economy by providing the most timely, relevant, and accurate economic accounts data in an objective and cost-effective manner.*"

The U.S. Bureau of Economic Analysis is an agency within the U.S. Department of Commerce. The BEA is renowned as one of the world's leading statistical agencies. The BEA works to collect data, conduct research and statistical analysis, produce methodologies and provide information and data to the American public. The research and collected data are used to present and accurate picture of the state of the U.S. economy. This research is used to adjust monetary policy, taxes, government budgeting and business investments. The BEA also assesses national income and product accounts, including GDP – one of the most influential measures in American monetary policy.

National Association of Realtors

www.realtor.org

" *The core purpose of the National Association of REALTORS® is to help its members become*

more profitable and successful.»

The National Association of Realtors is a membership of over 1 million residential and commercial realtors actively engaged in different aspects of the real estate industry. One aspect of this association is to conduct research and exchange information. Data and research reports are made available online for access by the general public. The database includes information about Existing-Home Sales, Pending Home Sales Index, Housing Affordability Index and Metropolitan Median Home Prices and Affordability.

Sarasota County Property Appraiser

www.sc-pa.com

" *Serving our community with pride and accountability."*

The Sarasota County Property Appraiser is responsible for determining the value of Sarasota County's real estate and personal property, such as business equipment and rental furnishings. The appraisal process is laid out by Florida Law. The Property Appraiser is also responsible for granting exemptions, such as the homestead exemption.

Visit Sarasota County

www.visitsarasota.org

" *It is the mission of the VSC to position Sarasota County as the must-experience destination*

on Florida's Gulf Coast."

Visit Sarasota County (VSC) is a main source for visitors and tourists to discover Sarasota County through dining, arts, recreation, festivals, etc. The information organization manages the official Sarasota Visitors Information Center.

HEALTH

Domain of Well-being:
HEALTH

The *health* domain of well-being is a crucial set of indicators that provide a picture of resident access to health care, as well as the overall health of Sarasota County residents.

The health domain of well-being can be used to:

➔ Show marked improvements in Sarasota County's health and support positive health trends.
➔ Target negative trends that show a worsening in some aspects of the county's overall health.
➔ Mobilize concern and spark dialogue about the future of county resident health.
➔ Provoke personal and community action to create positive trends in health.
➔ Provide data to support community action and allocation of resources to address recent trends.

We have provided data on indicators that we believe provide an accurate representation on the general well-being of Sarasota County resident's health. Some of the indicators include birth rates, HIV/AIDS, healthy eating, and diabetes. We paid particular attention to include data on those indicators marked most important by residents who participated in SCOPE's 2013 community workshops. In this domain of well-being, the most interest was placed on access to health care coverage.

Under the recent **Affordable Care Act**, health care coverage should be ensured for all United States residents. As such, this indicator is a snapshot of how many, as well as which residents, had health insurance coverage prior to the Affordable Care Act. In addition, we supplemented this indicator with additional data on those Sarasota County residents who could not afford to seek medical attention due to cost, regardless of insurance coverage.

Domain of Well-being:
HEALTH

The Indicators Included

Key Findings

✓ More adults in the **age group 18-44** are consistently without health insurance coverage (33% as of 2010). Between 2002 and 2010, this group saw an **11 percentage point increase in adults without health insurance coverage**.

✓ Similarly, residents in the **age group 45-64** saw an increase of 8 percentage points between 2002 and 2010. In 2010, about **25% of residents in this age group did not have health insurance coverage.**

✓ In 2010 a total of **57% of adults**, over the age of 18, **could not seek medical attention** due to cost.

✓ Almost **10%** of residents between **ages 45-64** have been diagnosed with **diabetes**, a 4.2 percentage point increase between 2002 and 2010.

✓ Sarasota County residents with an **annual income of $50,000 or more** saw the greatest **increase in diagnosed diabetes** between 2002 and 2010, jumping from 1.4% to 7.7%.

✓ Meanwhile, residents with an annual income between **$25,000 and $49,999** experienced a **decrease in diagnosed diabetes** to a total of 8.1%.

✓ There has been a steady **increase** in average rates of preventable **hospitalizations from vaccine preventable conditions** over the past decade.

"The first wealth is health."
- Ralph Waldo Emerson

What data is most important to you in this domain of well-being?

Let us know and we'll include it as we continue to update these indicators!

NOTE: Some of the data in this domain is reported under a '3-year rolling rate'. This means that the figures do not represent actual numbers, but rather an average over three years. Rather than using numbers that may reveal a sporadic trend line, the rolling rate presents a more realistic understanding of the trend present in the data.

HEALTH CARE

Percent of Adults with No Health Care Insurance Coverage,

By Age Group

This indicator shows the percentage of adults, over age 18, that have not had any form of health care or health insurance in the prior year. This indicator is broken down by age group.

For both state and county, the age group 18-44 remained consistently higher than other age groups in rates of no health care coverage. In Sarasota County, the rates for this age group have increased from 22% to 33%. The age group 45-64 has similarly seen an increase in the percent of adults that have not had health care coverage in the prior year. The last age group, 65 year and older, is the age group with the most adults with health care in Sarasota County, most likely due to participation in Medicare.
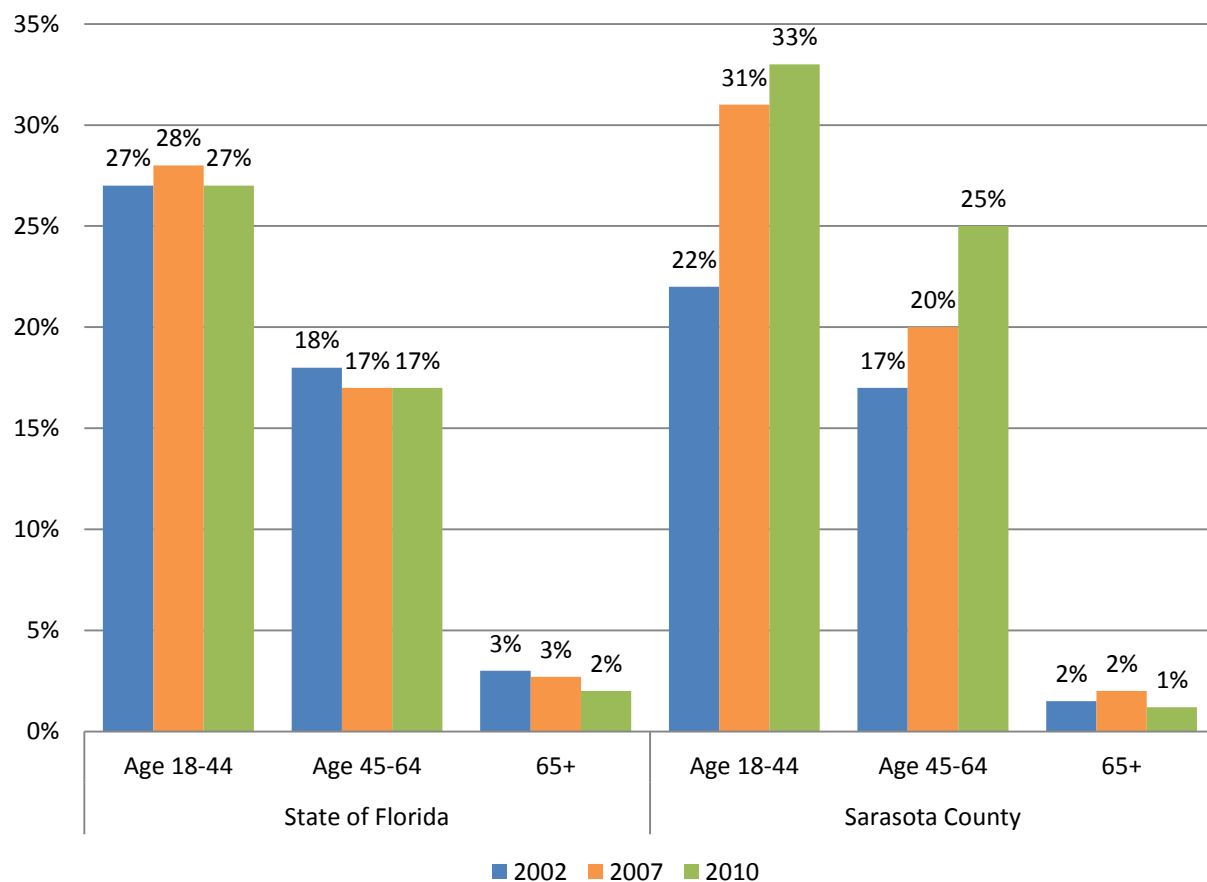
Figure 50: Florida Charts, Florida Department of Health, Division of Public Health Statistics & Performance Management.

HEALTH CARE

Percent of Adults Who Could Not See a Doctor At Least Once in the Past Year Due To Cost, by Age Group

This indicator examines the percent of adults, age 18 and over, that were not able to visit a doctor or medical practitioner over the course of the prior year due to cost. This indicator is broken down by age group. This data also compares state and county rates.

This graph shows the percent of adults, by age group, who could not afford to see a doctor at least once in the past year. In Florida, the age group 65+ has seen a higher percentage of adults that have not seen a doctor due to cost than adults in the same age group in Sarasota County. Sarasota has seen a rise across all age groups in adults who cannot afford to see a health care practitioner, although the greatest numbers of adults are in the age bracket 18 to 44. Overall, it seems as if more adults are not able to afford the services of a doctor or health care practitioner. However, the rates are increasing faster in Sarasota County than in the state.
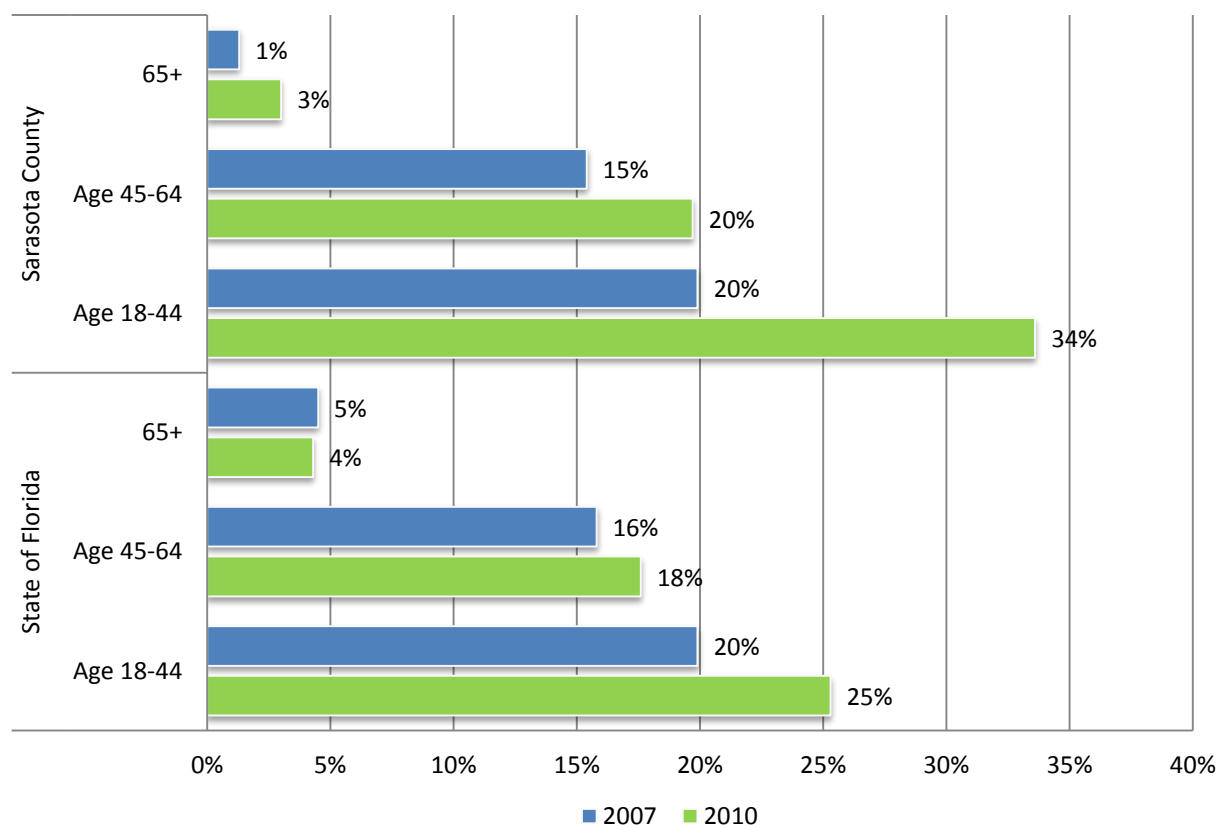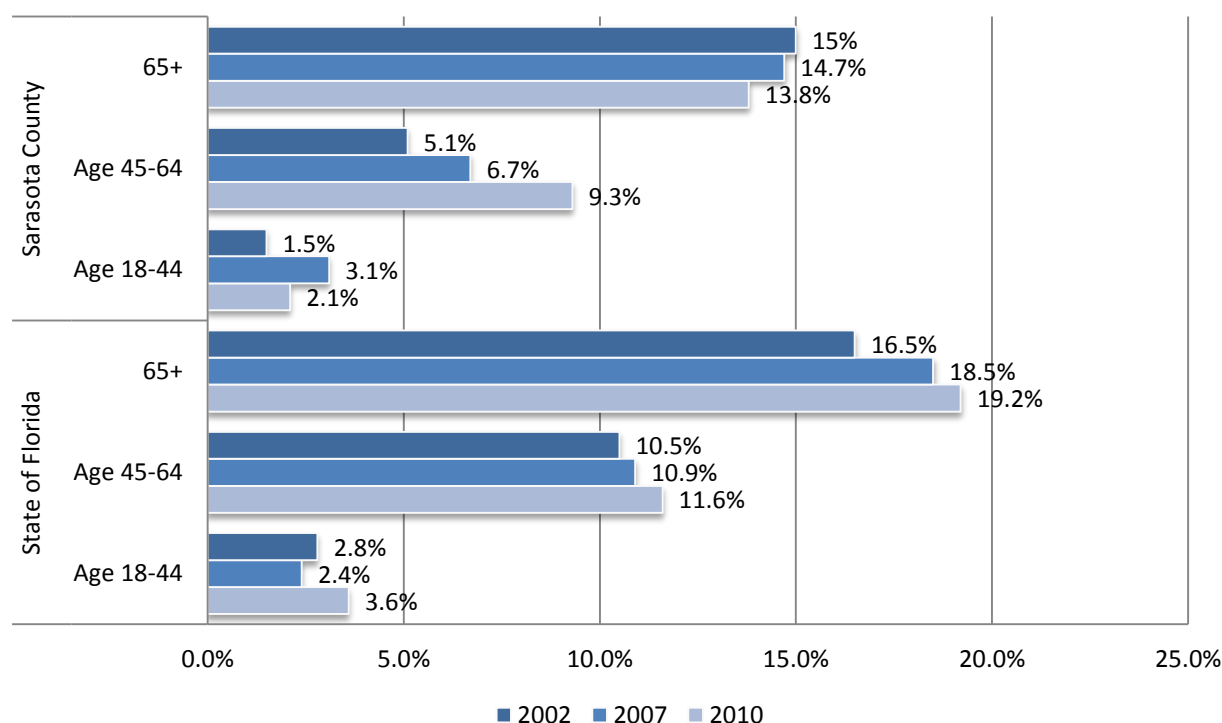

Figure 51: Florida Charts, Florida Department of Health, Division of Public Health Statistics & Performance Management.

CONSIDER THIS:

Why are more Sarasota County residents without health insurance than the state average?

Why has there been an increase in the percent of adults without health insurance?

Our peer review panels revealed several insightful aspects to the trends in the health care data:

HOMELESSNESS & UNSHELTERED ADULTS
Southwest Florida has a significant homeless population relative to other parts of Florida. This area in particular is a "hyper magnet" and could be contributed to relatively stable and livable climate conditions. A higher rate of adult homelessness would affect the above data by increasing the percent of adults without health care insurance.

INDUSTRY
Like much of Florida, Sarasota County has a very large food and beverage industry which creates a service oriented job climate. This industry has a high demand for part-time and seasonal workers who are not always eligible for health insurance benefits through their employer. This industry does not have very high retention rates in which transitional employees do not benefit from health insurance provided by a long-term employer. Sarasota County has a particular situation in that there is a gap between low wage and low-skilled employment and high wage – high-skilled employment.

BABY BOOMERS
The 'baby boomer' population is entering and nearing retirement which means a much larger proportion of older adults that will rely on social security and retirement funds, but might also become more reliant on the health care system. Some retirees find health care costs too high.

ECONOMY
Since the economic downturn, unemployment rates have been higher than what was previously considered a stable baseline. There is now a much larger percentage of adults that have dropped out of the workforce and have also lost healthcare benefits from a full-time employer.

The data in the following indicator show similar trends. What other factors might you consider that would affect adult accessibility to health care or willingness to seek out medical attention?

Percent of Adults That Report Fewer Than 5 Servings of
Fruits/Vegetables per Day

The most recent numbers show that about 68% of adults in Sarasota County report eating fewer than five servings of fruits/veggies daily, compared to 75% of all adults in Florida. The county rates had been stable at 70% for the previous 4 years, suggesting that almost 70% of county residents consume fewer than 5 servings of fruits or vegetables per day.

68%

Percent of adults in Sarasota County that reported eating less than 5 servings of fruits or vegetables every day. (2009)

What factors affect healthy eating?

For some people, unhealthy eating is a bad habit – for others, eating healthy foods can be a challenge. Some factors that affect healthy eating are:

- **Accessibility**: a household's ability to access grocery stores or other healthy food outlets (not including convenience stores)
- **Affordability**: ability to afford the cost of healthier food choices

Food insecurity can be defined as having limited or constrained access to healthy foods due to resource constraints, such as income or transportation. A recent in-depth research study published by All Faiths Food Bank revealed that an 'alarming number' of children, predominantly in elementary and high school, fall into the category of Food Insecurity Without Hunger – whereby children find themselves worried about the availability of food at home.

Sarasota County's median income level is not rising as quickly as the national level. The rate of poverty in Sarasota County has almost doubled from 1990 to 2010, where almost 13% of the population lives below the poverty line. The number of children living below the poverty line has increased from 12.9% in 2000 to 21.5% in 2010. These trends are evident at both the state and national level.

Sarasota County has 9 census tract areas that are officially considered food deserts. Food Deserts are characterized by low-income and low-access communities that face challenges of healthy food affordability and/or access to healthy food outlets such as grocery stores.
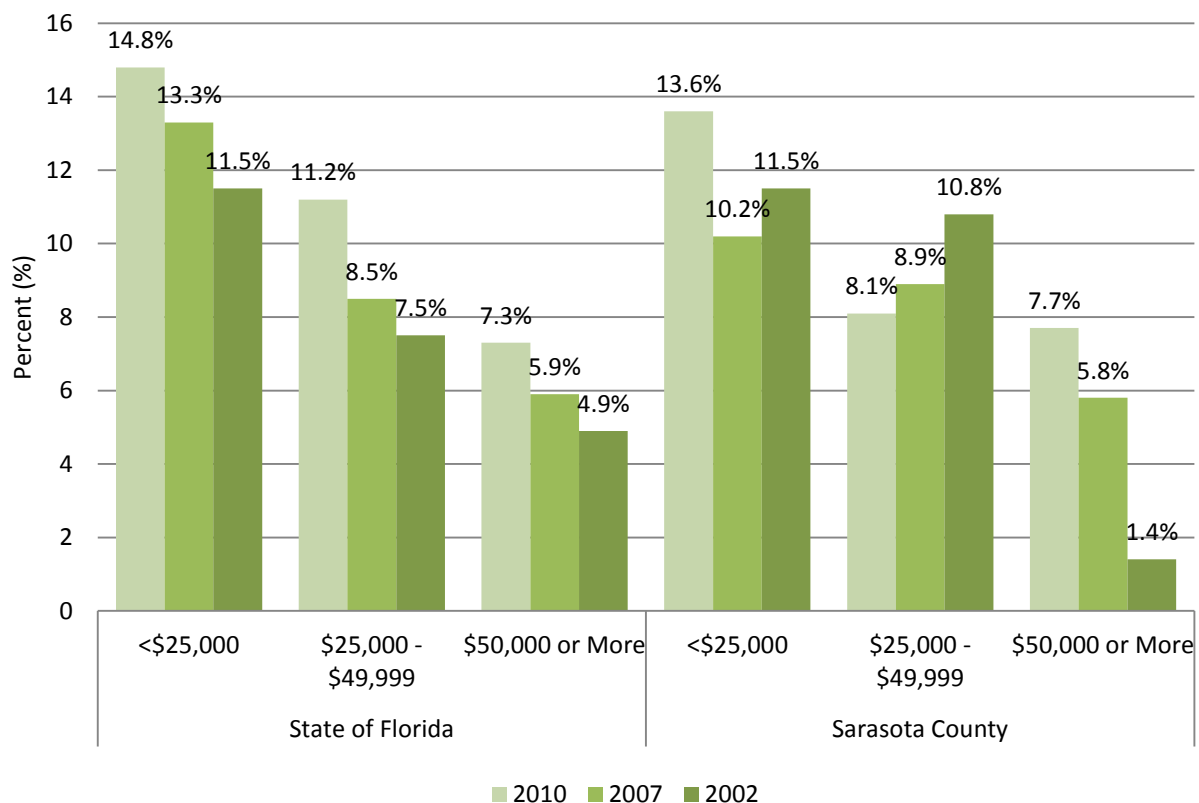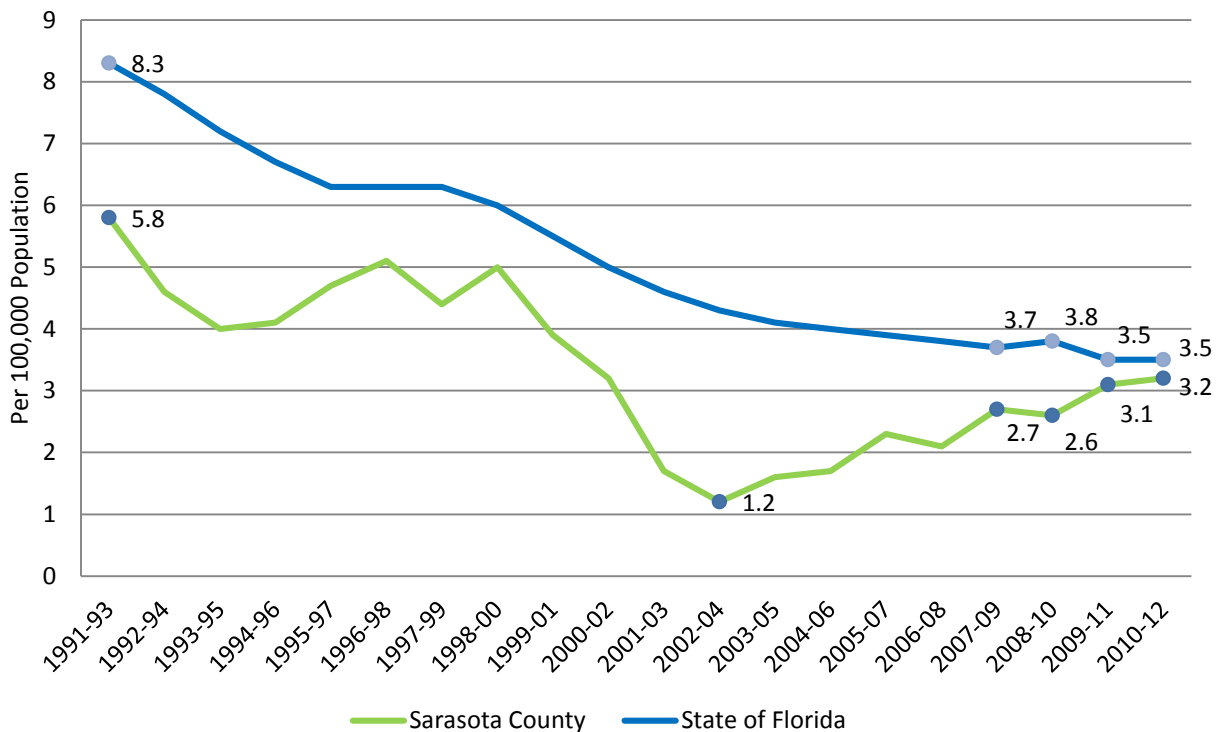
DIABETES

Percent of Adults Diagnosed With Diabetes, by Age Group

Figure 52: Florida Charts, Florida Department of Health, Division of Public Health Statistics & Performance Management.

This indicator shows the percent of adults, ages 18 and over, that have been diagnosed with diabetes.

This data shows that the State of Florida is facing an increase in diagnosed diabetes. From 2002 to 2010, every adult age bracket in Florida saw an increase in the percent of people diagnosed with diabetes. The group that accounts for the most diagnoses is age 65 and over.

Comparatively, **Sarasota County** saw a slight increase in diagnoses for the 18-44 age groups, and a decrease in the 65 and older age group. Overall, Sarasota County's residents age 65 and older have a higher rate of diabetes with a slower decreasing rate. The county's 45-64 age group saw a quicker **4.2% increase** in diagnoses, from 5.1% to 9.3%, between 2002 and 2010.

Source *Florida Charts*, Florida Department of Health, Division of Public Health Statistics & Performance Management.

DIABETES

Percent of Adults Diagnosed With Diabetes, by Annual Income

This indicator shows the percent of adults, ages 18 and over, that have been diagnosed with diabetes. This set is divided by annual income brackets.

This data similarly shows that every income bracket in Florida had an increase in diagnoses between 2002 and 2010. The upper income bracket ($50,000 or more) has the lowest percent of adults diagnosed with diabetes, while the lower income bracket (<less than $25,000) has the highest percent of adults with a diagnoses.

In **Sarasota County**, this trend rings true: the lowest income bracket has the highest percent of adults diagnosed with diabetes. However, between 2002 and 2010, the upper income bracket jumped from a 1.4% diagnoses rate to 7.7%, the steepest increase compared to other income groups. The lower bracket saw an increase from 10.2 to 13.6 percent. The middle income bracket ($25,000 to $49,000) saw a decrease from 10.8% to 8.1%.

Figure 53: Florida Charts, Florida Department of Health, Division of Public Health Statistics & Performance Management.

OBESITY

Percent of Reported Obesity in Adults - Ages 18+

This indicator measures the percentage of obesity in adults ages 18 and over. Obesity was measured by the percent of adults that reported a Body Mass Index that is greater than or equal to 30. This data compares obesity rates in Florida and Sarasota County.
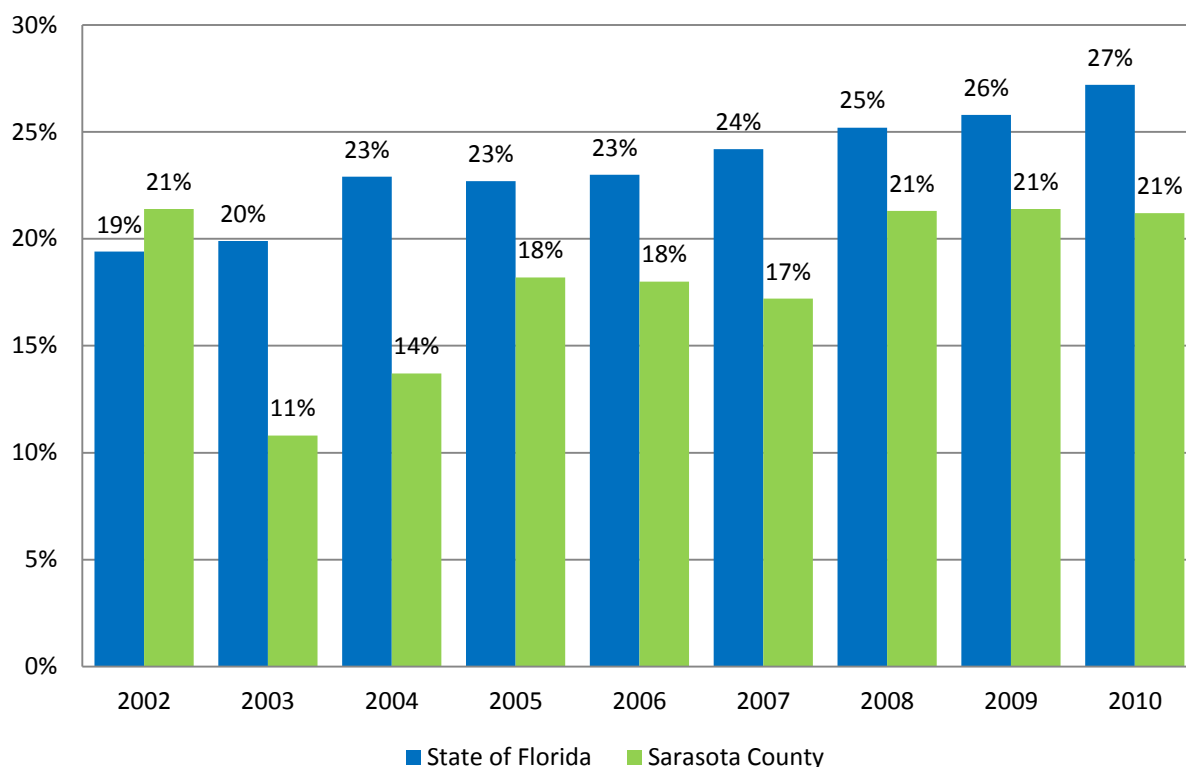
Figure 54: Health Indicators Warehouse, BRFF (CDC/PHSPO), healthindicators.gov

There has been a steady increasing trend of reported obesity in the State of Florida from 2002 to 2010, increasing from a prevalence of 19% to 27% in adults age 18 and over. In Sarasota County, there has been an increasing trend since 2003, from 11% to 21% in 2010, although the rate has remained stable at 21% since 2008. Overall, Sarasota County has a lower obesity rate when compared to the State of Florida.

National Obesity Rates Reported by the CDC (2009-2010):

12.1%	18.0%	18.4%	35.9%
ages 2-5	ages 6-11	ages 12-19	ages 20+

VACCINATIONS

Rates of Preventable Hospitalizations (Under 65) from Vaccine Preventable Conditions
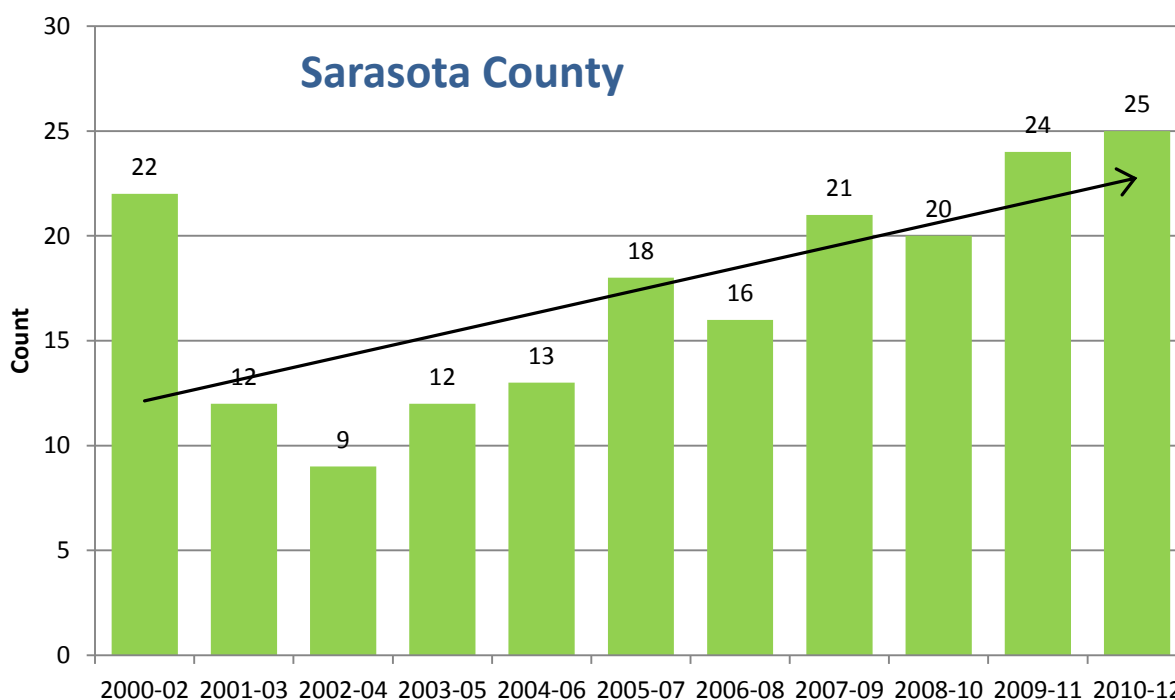

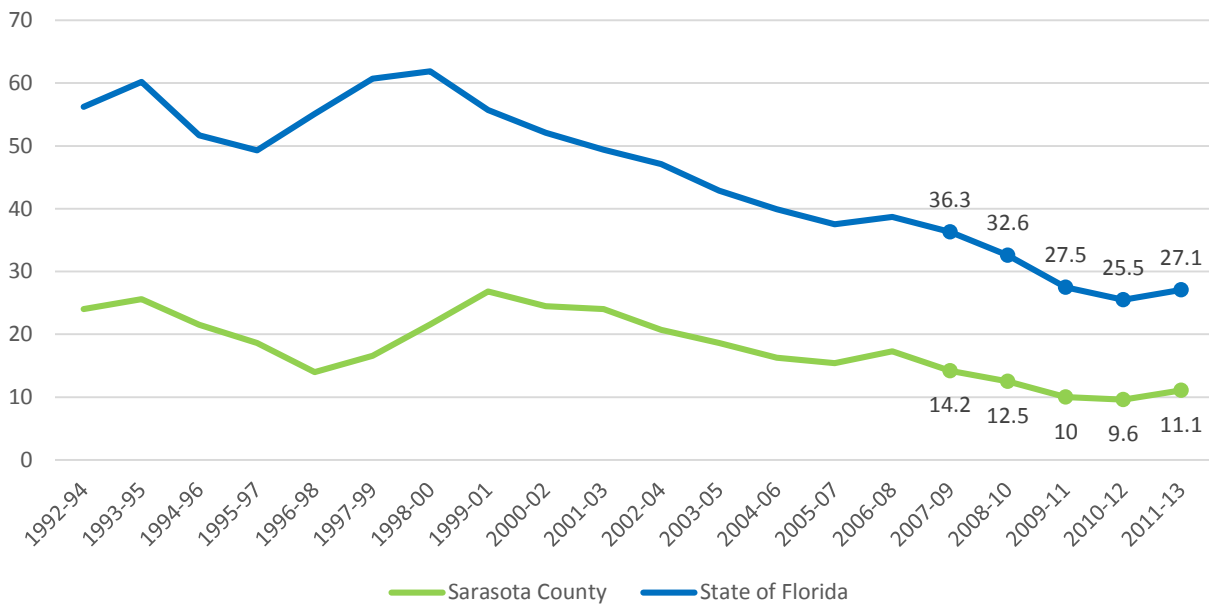*Figure 55: Florida Charts, Florida Department of Health, Division of Public Health Statistics & Performance Management, Florida Agency for Health Care Administration (AHCA)*

In 2010-12, there were 3.2 vaccine preventable hospitalizations for every 100,000 people in Sarasota County.

This graph compares state and county rates of cases in which individuals, under the age of 65, were hospitalized due to vaccine preventable conditions. This data is presented with a 3-year rolling rate.

The data depicted for the state, overall, shows a steady decrease in the rates of preventable hospitalizations (under 65) from vaccine preventable conditions.

A look at Sarasota County data shows that there has been an overall decrease in preventable hospitalizations from vaccine preventable conditions. However, while the county did see dramatic plummets in the rates for this indicator between 1996-98 and 2002-04, the rates have been steadily increasing starting in 2003-04. The rates for state and county cases of preventable hospitalizations are converging.

VACCINATIONS

Counts of Preventable Hospitalizations (Under 65) from Vaccine Preventable Conditions

This graph depicts the counts of cases in which individuals, under the age of 65, were hospitalized due to vaccine preventable conditions in Sarasota County. This data shows counts for Sarasota County in 3-year rolling rates. The black line represents a linear trend line based on the data beginning in 2000-02. These counts are mirrored by the rates in the previous graph (figure 56).

There was an all-time low in cases of preventable hospitalizations (under 65) from vaccine preventable conditions in Sarasota County in 2002-04. Since then, the counts have increased steadily to 25 counts in 2010-12, just above the average counts for the period before 2002-04. The trend line shows that there is a steady increasing trend in the count of vaccine preventable hospitalizations.

Vaccine preventable conditions include hepatitis A and B, measles, meningococcal diseases, mumps, whooping cough, rubella, tetanus and chicken pox.

There may be many reasons for why people choose not to vaccinate themselves or their children. This could include fear of the vaccination and possible repercussions, costs associated with receiving the vaccines, or access to health care facilities that provide these vaccinations.
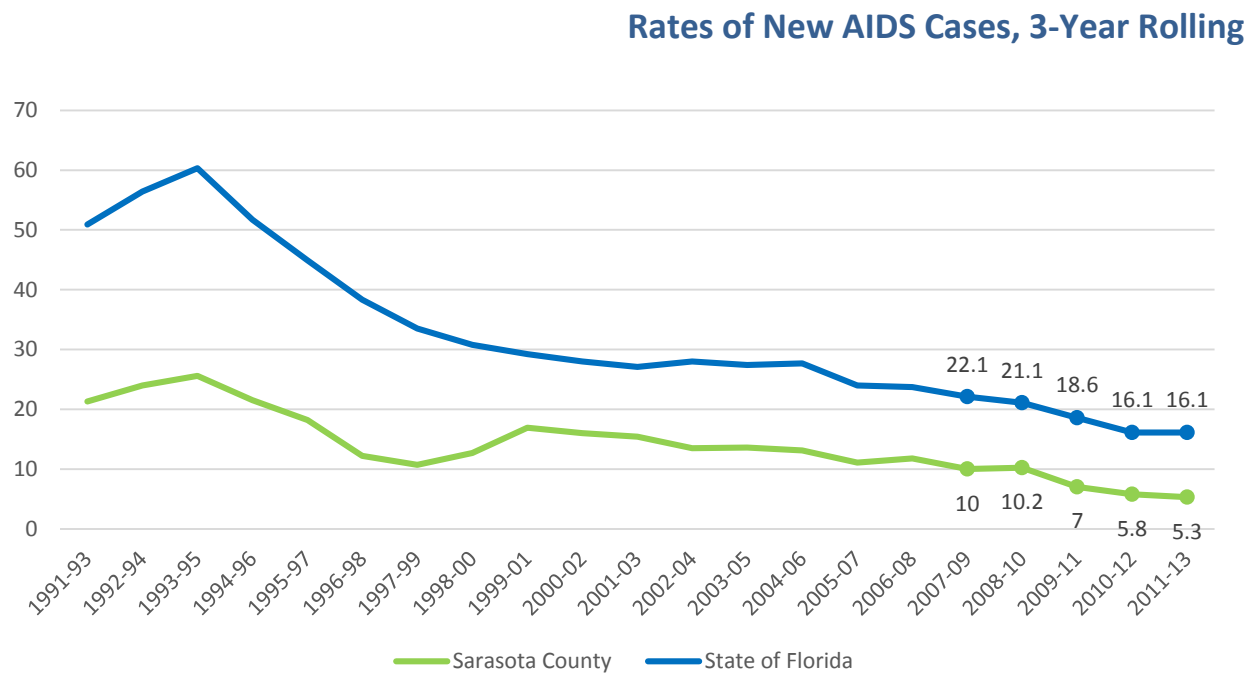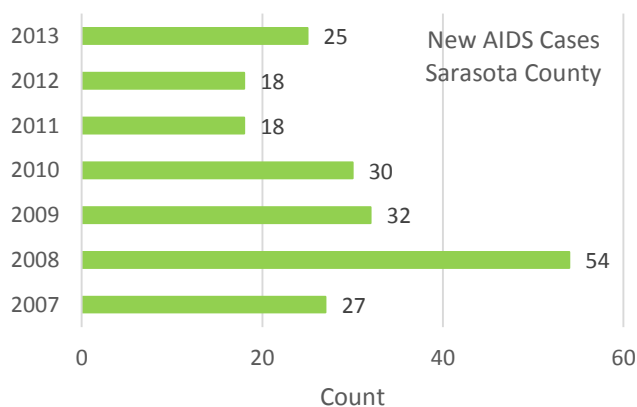

Figure 56: Florida Charts, Florida Department of Health, Division of Public Health Statistics & Performance Management, Florida Agency for Health Care Administration (AHCA)

HIV/AIDS

Rates of New HIV Cases, 3-Year Rolling

The data compares state and county rates of new HIV cases over a 3-year rolling period.

Figure 57: Florida Charts, Florida Department of Health, Division of Public Health Statistics & Performance Management.

Both the state and county data show very similar behaviors. The state rate has been consistently higher than the rates in Sarasota County for more than a decade. However, the rate of new HIV cases is decreasing faster in the State of Florida as a whole than in Sarasota County. **County rates were at an all-time low in 2009-11**. This is following a steady decrease in rates of new HIV cases from 1999-01, which was almost three times the current rate.

Similarly, actual counts of new HIV cases in Sarasota County are slowly decreasing. In 2013, a total of 52 new HIV cases were reported. Counts from the last four years have been markedly lower than their preceding years.
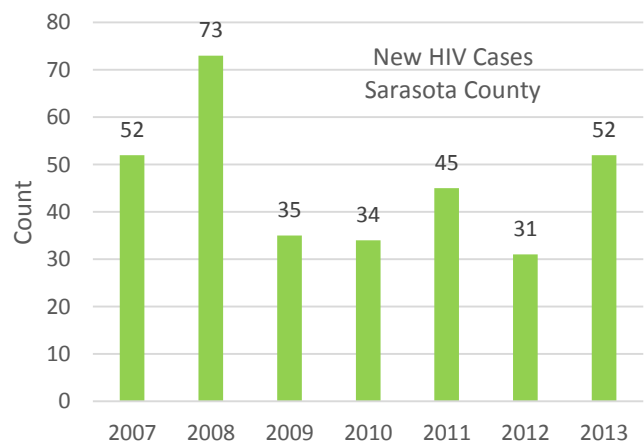
Figure 58: Florida Charts, Florida Department of Health, Division of Public

HIV/AIDS

Rates of New AIDS Cases, 3-Year Rolling

Figure 59: Florida Charts, Florida Department of Health, Division of Public Health Statistics & Performance Management.

This chart shows rates of new AIDS cases for Florida and Sarasota County over a 3-year rolling period. Based on this graph we can see that both county and state rates of new AIDS cases follow similar behavioral patterns. However, the state rate has been consistently higher than the rate for Sarasota County. In 1997-99, county rates saw an increase in new AIDS cases until 1999-01 which is not evident in the rates for the state. In the long run, both state and county rates have been steadily decreasing since 1991-93, with state rates decreasing faster than rates for Sarasota County.

There has been a very significant decrease in the counts of new AIDS cases in Sarasota County since 1993. Since 2007, the counts have remained relatively low, seeing only one spike in 2008 to 54 counts. The most recent years, 2011 and 2012, have seen all time low counts of new AIDS cases in Sarasota County.

Figure 60: Florida Charts, Florida Department of Health, Division of Public Health Statistics & Performance Management.

HIV/AIDS

What do you think are some of the biggest challenges facing HIV/AIDS treatment?

In looking at the data regarding HIV/AIDS, it is important to note that the rates and counts reported to authorities may not be an accurate representation of real-world conditions.

HIV/AIDS is a highly stigmatized topic in many societies around the world. Consequently, many people with HIV/AIDS do not come forward for treatment or diagnoses for fear of public discrimination and judgment. Some consequences of HIV/AIDS stigmas include:

- ✓ HIV is falsely believed to be highly contagious
- ✓ Patients are viewed as a threat to non-infected individuals
- ✓ Patients become isolated, secluded and marginalized
- ✓ Patients are often discriminated against or face prejudice
- ✓ Patients are often judged for their assumed moral integrity

Our peer review panel, however, suggested that in Sarasota County, HIV/AIDS has recently had less of a stigma and has consequentially had more people reach out to HIV/AIDS services. Increased counts could mean that more people with HIV/AIDS are reaching out to medical or professional services, and not necessarily that rates are increasing.

Sarasota County has had an increase in services available to HIV/AIDS patients which also affects overall accessibility for patients to those services.

Source: ICRW, *Stigma & Discrimination* (web page)

What is a social stigma?

Social stigma is a social phenomenon whereby behaviors, traits, characteristics, etc. are disapproved of by a larger social group because they deviate from what is socially or culturally acceptable, or the 'norm'.

When a person or thing has attributes that veer from what is socially acceptable, there are social consequences that work to marginalize, devalue or critique that person or thing.

Some examples of social stigmas include: delinquencies, disabilities, illness, mental illness, or addiction.

What other examples of social stigma come to mind?
What are some consequences of social stigmas?

Births & Deaths

Rate of Births to Mothers under Age 18, 3-Year Rolling

This chart looks at the rate of births to mothers that are under the age of eighteen. It compares Florida State and Sarasota County data using a three-year rolling rate.
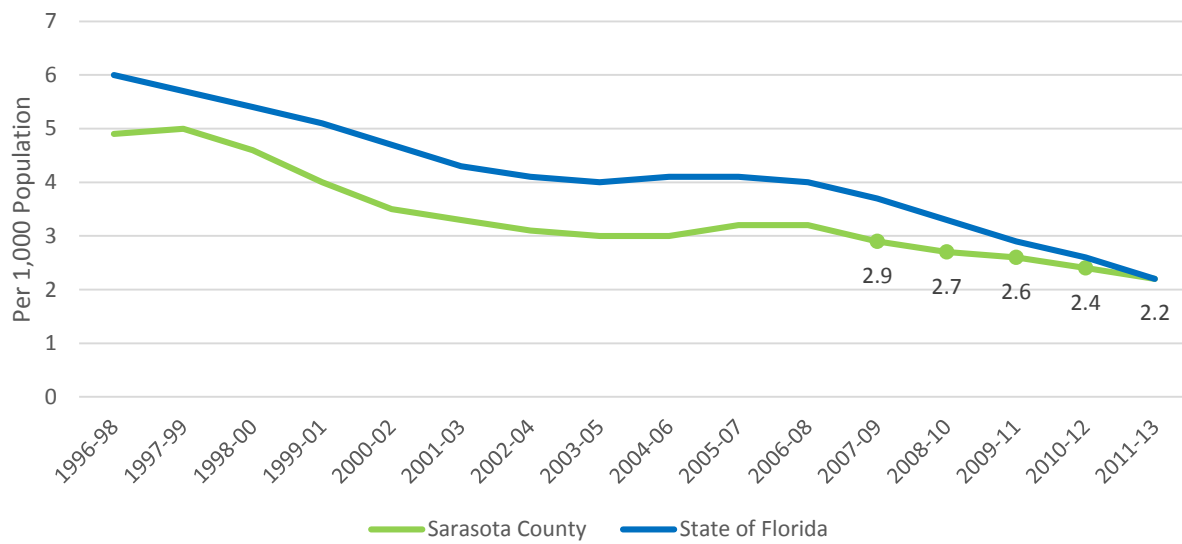
Figure 61: Florida Charts, Florida Department of Health, Bureau of Vital Statistics

The rate of births to mothers under the age of 18 in Sarasota County is consistently lower than average rates in the State of Florida. Overall, **both state and county rates have had a decreasing trend over the past fourteen years**, facing a minor plateau in the 2005-07 and 2006-08 years. The rate of births to mothers under the age of 18 has decreased faster in the state as a whole when compared to Sarasota County. This can be seen in the decreasing difference between state and county rates.

Why is Teen Pregnancy an important community indicator?

✓ Teen parents often have fewer educational, economic and social opportunities
✓ Pregnancy and childbirth are significant factors that contribute to high school dropout rates
✓ Only about 50% of teen mothers who dropped out of high school receive a high school certificate by age 22
✓ Significant national loss in tax revenue due to lower education achievement ($11 Billion in 2008)
✓ Teen parents increase use of social services and health care, as well as higher incarceration rates for children of teen parents
✓ There is a strong correlation between race and teen pregnancy, as well as socioeconomic disadvantage among all races.   **Source**: CDC – Teen Pregnancy (website)

Births & Deaths

Rate of Infant Deaths, 3-Year Rolling

This chart compares rates of infant deaths in Sarasota County and Florida. The rates were calculated per 1,000 live births and are based on a 3-year rolling rate. These numbers include deaths occurring within 364 days of birth.
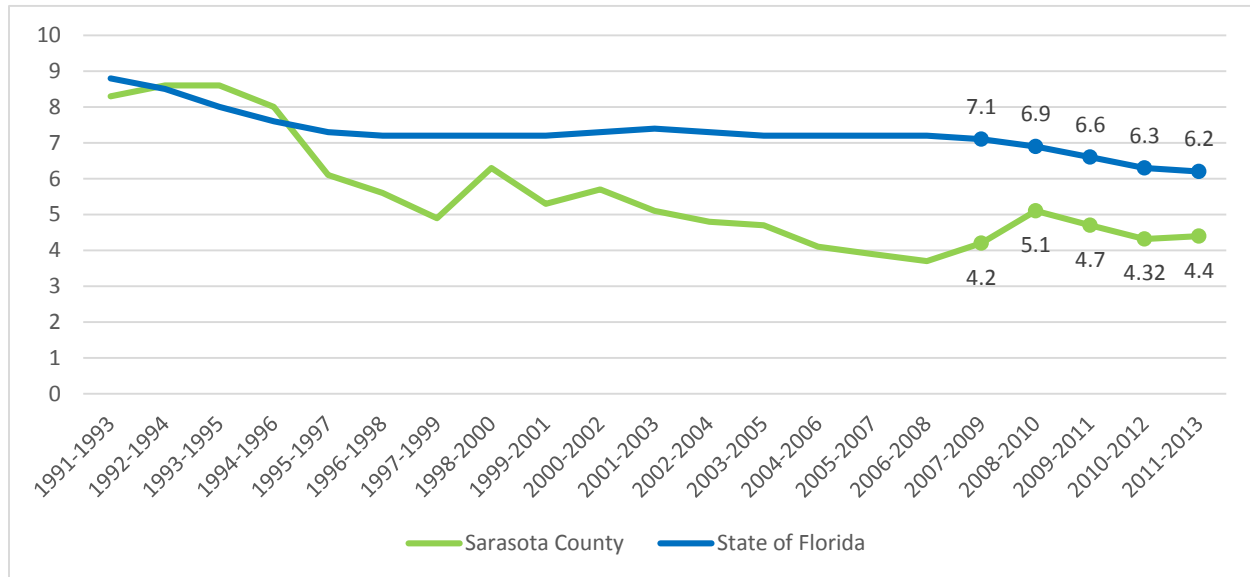
Figure 62: Florida Charts, Florida Department of Health, Bureau of Vital Statistics

The intuition of this indicator is that the structural factors that affect the overall health of a community will show in the rates of infant death – a healthy community should show lower infant mortality rates.

The State of Florida has a decreasing trend in infant deaths in recent years. Since 1995-97, the rates in the state have plateaued but have just recently, in 2007-09, started a downward trend again. **Sarasota County has an overall downward trend in rates of infant deaths.** The decrease had been fairly stable up to 2006-08 when rates of infant deaths increased again until 2008-10. Since then, the rate of infant deaths has been steadily declining and in 2013 was at 4.4 infant deaths per thousand live births.

Counts of Infant Deaths, Sarasota County
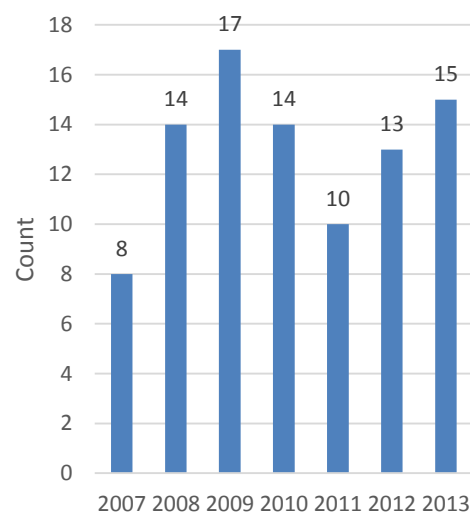
Figure 63: *Florida Charts*, Florida Department of Health, Bureau of Vital Statistics

Births & Deaths

Rate of Deaths from Suicide (Age Adjusted)
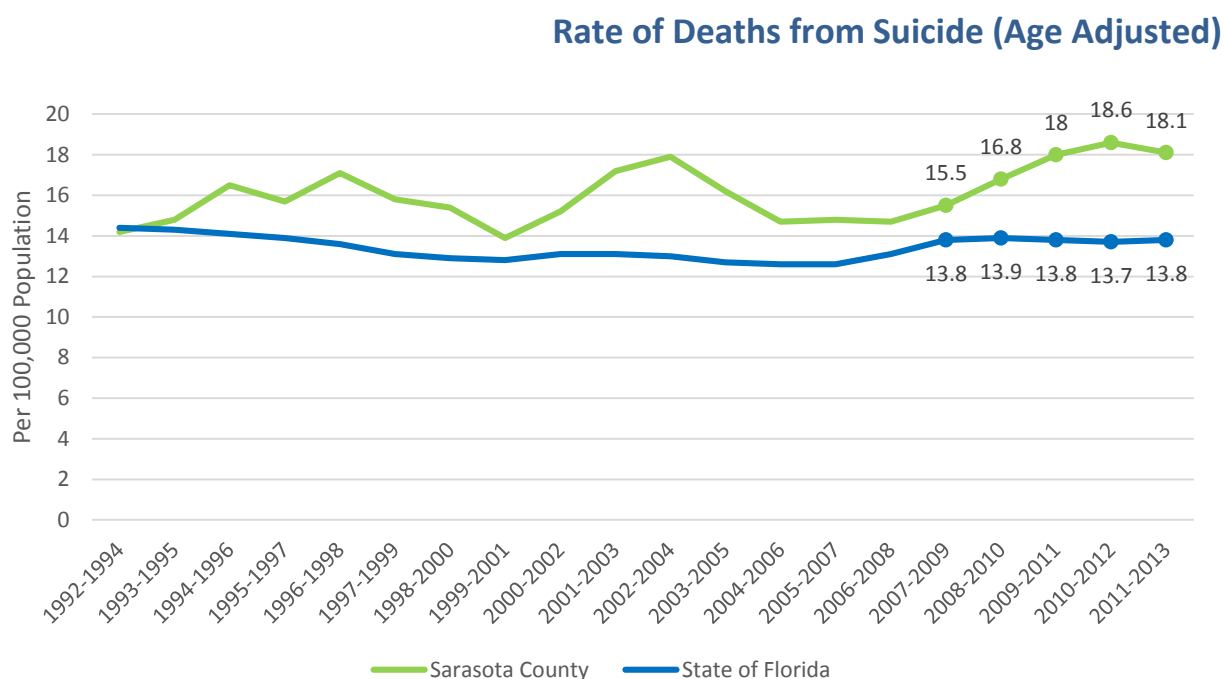
Figure 64: Florida Charts, Florida Department of Health, Bureau of Vital Statistics

This graph shows the age-adjusted rate of death by suicide. Age adjusted rates tend to be more accurate because it takes into account age distribution which may vary significantly from area to area, or scale to scale. This graph shows rates for Florida and Sarasota County.

The rates of suicide in Sarasota County have a tendency to remain higher than the average suicide rate in the State of Florida. While the county rate closed the gap with the state rate in 2008, the rate increased again to a peak of 18.6 in 2010-2012, the highest in ten years, but declining again to a rate of 18.1 suicides per hundred thousand people. Average suicide rates in the State of Florida have remained relatively stable in more recent years.

Is Suicide a Community Issue?

The CDC lists connectedness – family and community support – as one protective factor for suicide. Connectedness among family, community members, and community organizations can:

Lower social isolation and feelings of loneliness
Increase sense of belonging and trust within a community
Increase community support networks

Source: CDC, National Center for Injury Prevention and Control

Births & Deaths

Rate of Deaths from Suicide, Ages 65-100
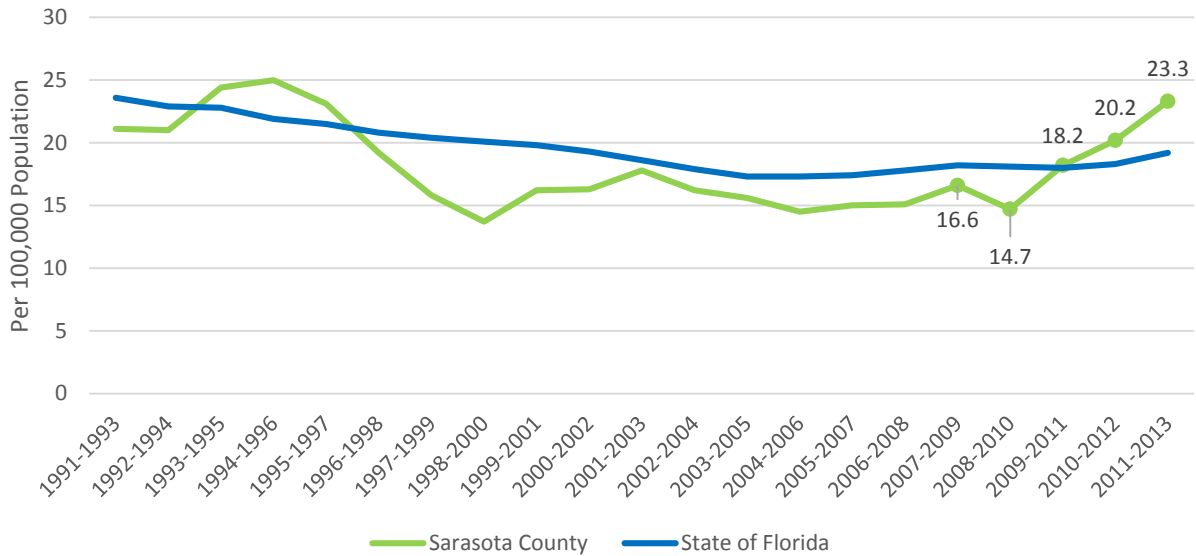
Figure 1: Florida Charts, Florida Department of Health, Bureau of Vital Statistics

Rate of Deaths from Suicide, Ages 10-19
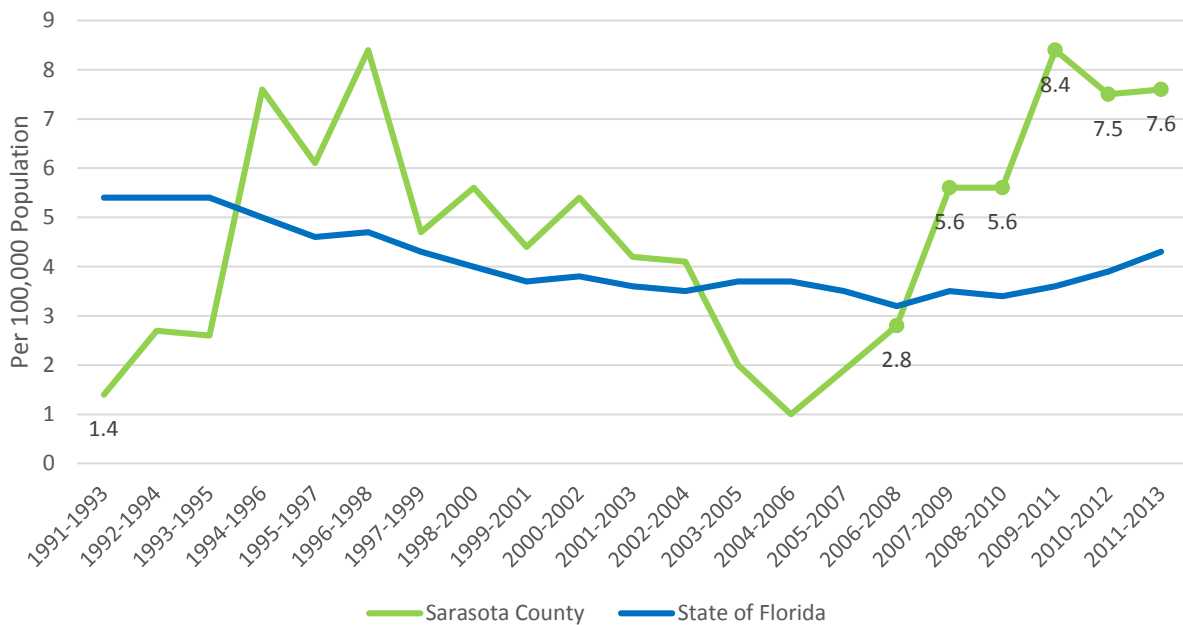
Figure 66: Florida Charts, Florida Department of Health, Bureau of Vital Statistics

Births & Deaths

This data is reported over a three-year rolling period per 100,000 population.

The rate of suicide in the Sarasota County population between the ages of 65 and 100 (figure 16) has been steadily lower than the state rate; however, starting in 2008-10 the county rate has made a climb to overtake the state rate. Currently, **the suicide rate for ages 65-100 in Sarasota County is slightly higher than the average rate in the State of Florida**, reporting 23.3 suicide deaths per hundred thousand people.

The second graph (figure 17) shows that suicide rates among those 10 to 19 have been erratic, following no clear pattern. The 2004-06 rates are lowest for Sarasota County in the past 19 years. However, since 2004-06 the rates for Sarasota have increased well beyond the rates for Florida, reaching another peak in 2009-11, and decreasing slightly in 2010-12.

Risk Factors

Family history of suicide
Previous suicide attempt(s)
History of mental disorders, particularly clinical depression
History of alcohol and substance abuse
Feelings of hopelessness
Impulsive or aggressive behavior
Social isolation
Inaccessibility to mental health treatments
Personal, social, work or financial loss
Easy access to lethal methods

Suicide is a public health issue that affects many millions of people every year – either through committed acts, attempted suicide, or suicidal thoughts. The CDC has ranked suicide as the tenth leading cause of death in the United States. Mental health care can be a preventative measure for those who may be more prone to harmful behavior and should be encouraged by trusted family and friends. Moreover, strong social networks serve as a preventative factor.

National Suicide Prevention Lifeline: 1-800-273-TALK

Source: CDC, National Center for Injury Prevention and Control

Now that you have reviewed the full set of indicators for the HEALTH domain of well-being, which indicators do you find most enlightening, most promising, and most alarming?

As mentioned previously, this Community Report Card targeted indicators that resident participants found most important during SCOPE community workshops hosted throughout the year. In this particular domain of well-being – resident participants were most interested in health care insurance coverage:

SARASOTA COUNTY

	Age Group		
	18-44	45-64	65 +
Percent of Adults with No Health Care Insurance Coverage (2002→2010)	↑ +11%	↑ +8%	→ -1%
Percent of Adults Who Could Not See a Doctor At Least Once in the Past Year Due to Cost (2007→2010)	↑ +14%	↑ +5%	→ +2%

The trends of these two indicators show an increase in adults with no health care insurance coverage, as well as an increase in adults who could not afford to see a doctor in the past year. All age groups, except ages 65 and over, showed significant increases – meaning that more adults in recent years lost, could not afford, or did not qualify for health care insurance.

Federal statute now requires health insurance coverage for all residents and citizens. The increased affordability and accessibility of health care insurance under this legislation should increase the number of adults with health care insurance coverage, and should encourage adults to seek medical care when needed.

The data presented provides a snapshot of health care trends before the Affordable Care Act, and show that an increasing number of Sarasota County residents were living without health care insurance coverage.

The Importance of Health Care:
While many of us don't get too sick very often or might be less accident prone than others – at some point, we all need medical care. The crux of having health care insurance or affordable medical care is the ability to seek preventative medical care to keep minds and bodies healthy and work to stave off more intense medical issues. The goal is to keep the people in our community healthy in the long run!

TRENDS WE ARE KEEPING OUR EYE ON
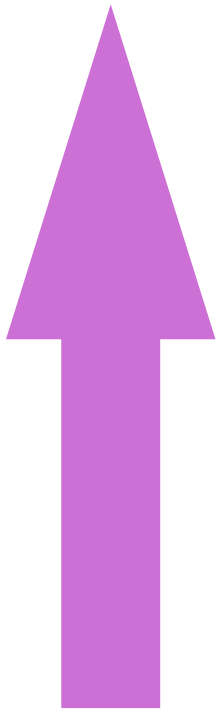
Preventable Hospitalizations from Vaccine Preventable Hospitalizations

In the 2002/4 period, there were a total of 9 hospitalizations from vaccine preventable conditions. This low-point has steadily increased to 25 hospitalizations.

Suicide Rates

While rate of suicide has been consistently higher than the state average, the rate has increased again suddenly in 2008.

Diabetes

In Sarasota County, adults age 45-64 saw an increase of 4.2% in diagnosed diabetes. Concurrently, adults that have an annual income of $50 thousand or more saw an increase of 6.3% in diagnosed diabetes.

Obesity

While the obesity rates in Sarasota County has remained somewhat even around 20% over the last couple of years after an increasing rate, it's important to keep in mind the long term health consequences of obesity.

Body weight can be affected by many factors such as environment, genetics, metabolism, learned behavior, culture and even socioeconomic status.
Nonetheless, the consequences of obesity include:
Heart disease, high blood pressure, cancers, diabetes, increased chances of stroke, sleep and respiratory problems.

Considering these increasing trends, what do you think can be done at the personal and community level to stabilize or decrease these indicators?

In what ways does community health affect overall community well-being and happiness?

POSITIVE TRENDS

- The rate of new HIV/AIDS cases in Sarasota County has been on a steady decline for more than a decade and is reaching all-time low levels!
  More people are seeking treatment as overall stigma is decreasing, more services have become available, and accessibility of those services to patients has increased.

- The rate of teen birth has been decreasing at a constant rate and is also achieving the lowest levels that the county has seen!
  Responsibility, sex education, and contraceptive measures are working to keep the youth of Sarasota County from early pregnancies. Early pregnancies tend to keep young parents out of school and in lower levels of socioeconomic well-being.

- Overall infant death rates are lower in recent years throughout the past decade and showing decreasing rates!
  Infant mortality is a popular indicator to determine the overall health of a community's population because it is thought to determine the effectiveness of the health system in being accessible to the population and successful in tending to the needs of the community.

We encourage your own analysis of these indicators. Our intent is to spark conversation about issues you see in the data and to inspire action that comes from our community.

What indicators did we not include that would best show the overall health of Sarasota County? Please let us know!

SCOPE

About Our Sources

Florida CHARTS, Department of Health, Division of Public Health Statistics & Performance Management

floridacharts.com

"The Florida Department of Health works to protect, promote & improve the health of all people in Florida through integrated state, county, & community efforts."

- FL Dept. of Health

The Florida Department of Health's Division of Public Health Statistics and Performance provide this online tool called CHARTS (The Florida Community Health Assessment Resource Tool Set). This database contains collected data around a wide range of indicators. Users can compare indicators between counties, control for certain variables, download data tables and graphic visualizations. CHARTS was designed with the intention of providing accessible public data and aiding in community health assessment.

Health Indicators Warehouse

healthindicators.org

"Access to high quality data improves understanding of a community's health status and determinants, and facilitates the prioritization of interventions."

- Health Indicators Warehouse

The Health Indicators Warehouse (HIW) is a collection of health indicators that are sourced from partnering federal organizations, such as the Center for Medicare & Medicaid Services, Department of Health and Human Services, and the Health Resources and Services Administration. The HIW is maintained by the Center for Disease Control's National Center for Health Statistics. All data in the HIW is publicly available online.

Center for Disease Control and Prevention

cdc.gov

The Center for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) is a federal agency under the Department of Health and Human Services. The CDC works to protect public health and covers a wide range of public health issues such as disease, environmental health, workplace safety, injury and violence, emergency response, and health systems. The CDC keeps many data sets and offers public access to statistics and data tools.

SOCIAL

Domain of Well-being:
SOCIAL

The *social* domain of well-being domain includes information about violent and nonviolent crimes, homelessness, abuse and alcohol related vehicle accidents. These indicators were included to provide a baseline to evaluate aspects of social well-being in Sarasota County.

The *social* domain of well-being can be used to:

→ Determine areas that might call for a reallocation of resources.
→ Point out improvements in the social environment of Sarasota County.
→ Consider causes and relationships in the trends that are revealed in the data.
→ Sparks discussion and community action around long-term trends and short-term changes in the data.

Some of the indicators included in this domain of well-being are a continuation of data collected for previous SCOPE Community Report Cards. Other indicators were included following increased community awareness of certain issues, such as homelessness in Sarasota County. During the course of the previous years, resident-participants that participated in SCOPE community workshops expressed particular interest in indicators concerning violent crime as well as rates of child and elder abuse.

Homelessness in Sarasota County
The conversation about homelessness has taken on new direction as the community has been proactively seeking solutions for the issue. In mid-2013, the City of Sarasota and Sarasota County contracted homeless consultant and expert, Dr. Robert Marbut, to evaluate the state of homelessness in the county, as well as to propose best-practice strategies that would make services for the homeless and unsheltered more efficient and highly organized. The final report rendered 12 recommendations, starting with a shift within the county as a culture of *enablement*, to a culture of *engagement* - a task directed at public and private entities, governmental agencies, citizens, visitors and the homeless.

Do you think that homelessness is a community issue?

Domain of Well-being:
SOCIAL

The Indicators Included

Key Findings

✓ Following fiscal year 2006/7, the rate of **verified child abuse** investigations for children under the age of 18 has **surpassed the state average**. This rate has recently declined but remains above the state average.

✓ The year **2011** marks the **highest rate of reported child abuse in ages 5-11** in the previous decade. The most recent data available shows a decreasing rate but remains higher than previous years.

✓ Counts of **alcohol related and suspected motor vehicle crashes** have been on a steady decline and are showing the **lowest counts** in more than a decade.

✓ Recent **homeless** counts near 1,500 people, with a **needs deficit** of about **80%.**

✓ Long-term trends of **violent crimes** show a constant decline, with the **lowest rates in 2013**. Sarasota County remains below the average rate of violent crime in the state of Florida.

What data is most important to you in this domain of well-being?

Let us know and we'll include it as we continue to update these indicators!

Keep in Mind:

Much of the data surrounding violent crimes, nonviolent crimes and abuse is dependent on external factors such as rates of reporting, trust in authority, and efficiency of authority. Not all crimes and instances of abuse are reported to the appropriate authorities and are therefore not reflected in the published data. These indicators are notoriously underreported and do not accurately reflect rates of crime and abuse.

According to local law enforcement officials, Sarasota County's rate may be lower than the state's rate due to a larger population of older adults who traditionally engage in less crime than "criminally capable" populations, which tend to be between the ages of 14 and 45. As a result, county data may compare at a lower rate than the state, which has a more even age distribution.

CRIME

Rate of Violent Crime

This data shows the rate of violent crime in Florida and Sarasota County.
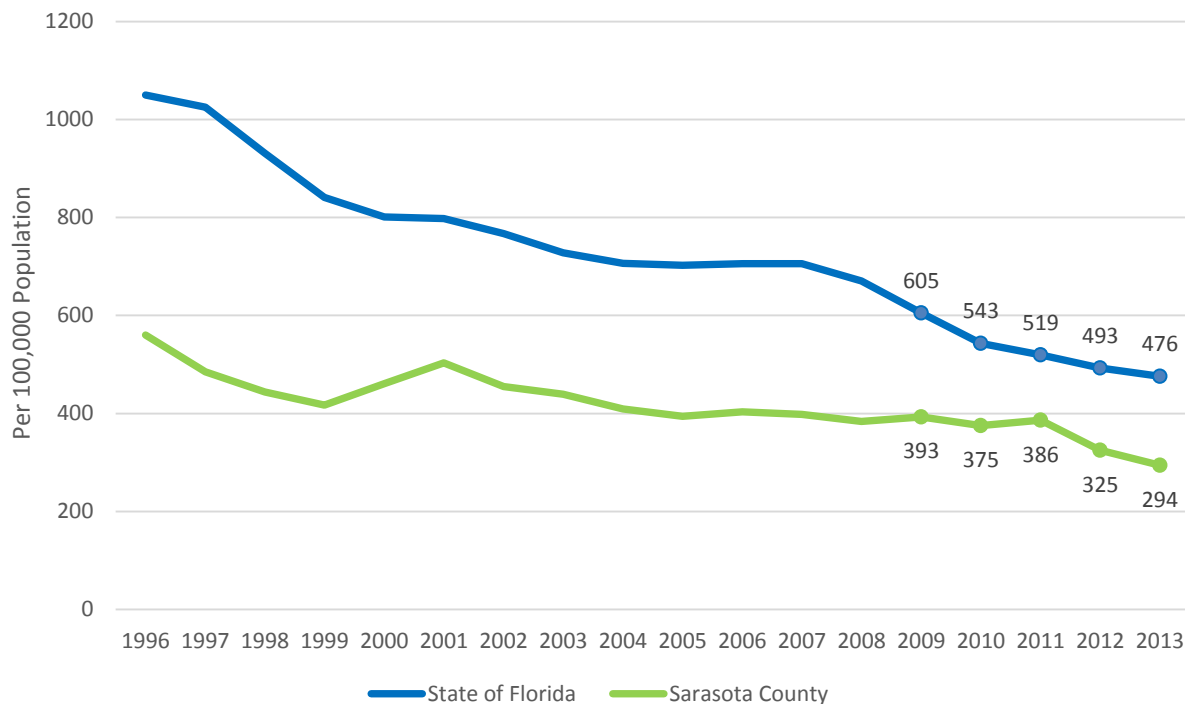Violent crimes include murder, forcible sex offenses, robbery, and aggravated assault.

Figure 67: Florida Department of Law Enforcement, Florida Statistical Analysis Center, Uniform Crime Reports

Overall, the data shows that Sarasota County's rate of violent crime is lower than the average rate in the State of Florida. Since 2001, the county rate has steadily decreased although it held stagnant for a three year stretch between 2006 and 2009. In 2011, the rate signaled a decline again and 2013 marked the lowest rate of violent crime in the county in 16 years. The state rate of violent crime has also decreased steadily over time and is working toward closing the gap between county and state rates.

CAVEAT: Rates were calculated by the SCOPE team using U.S. census population data.

CRIME

Rate of Property Crime

This data shows the rate of property crimes in Florida and Sarasota County.
Property crimes include burglary, larceny and motor vehicle theft.

Since 1996, both the Sarasota County rates of property crimes and the Florida State average rates have declined, so much that the differences between the two have reduced. Sarasota County's rate wavered between 2005 and 2009, but the downward trend resumed again in 2012, reaching an all-time low in decades.
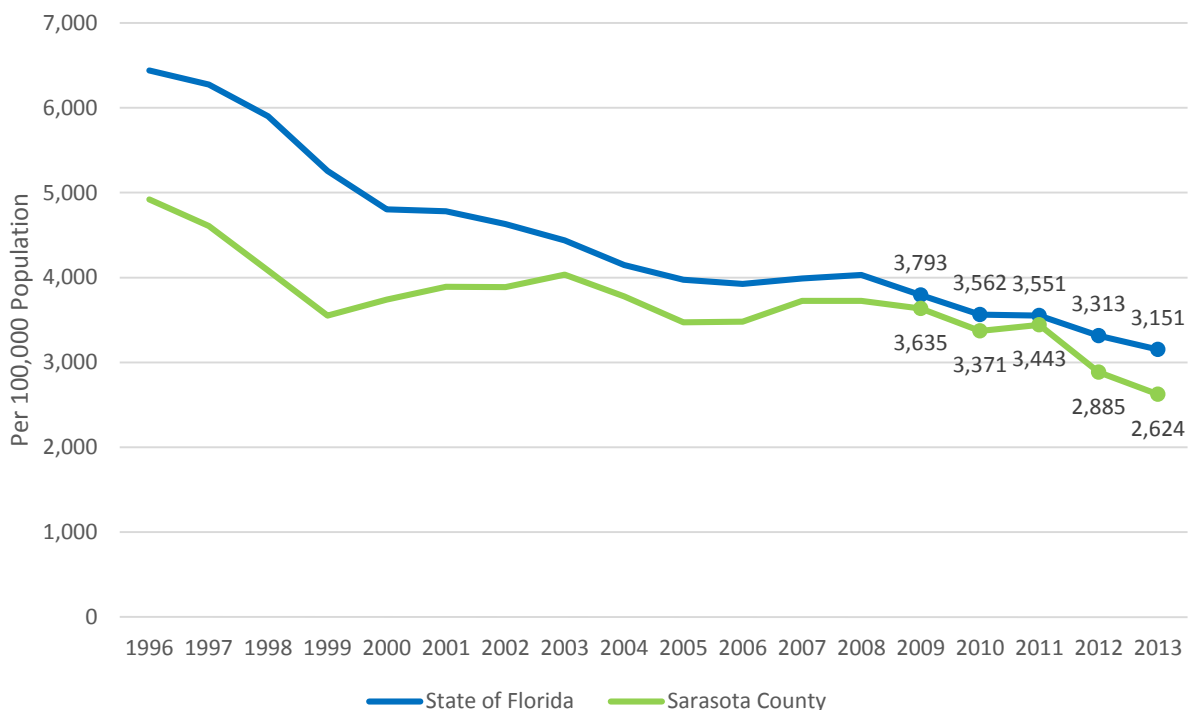

Figure 68: Florida Department of Law Enforcement, Florida Statistical Analysis Center, Uniform Crime Reports

CAVEAT: Rates were calculated by the SCOPE team using U.S. Census population data.

Previous Community Report Cards have defined nonviolent crime as consisting of burglary, larceny and motor vehicle theft. While the indicators have remained the same, the Florida Department of Law Enforcement defines these indicators as "Property Crimes".

GOOD TO KNOW:

Intelligence Based Policing

The Sarasota County Sheriff's Office adopted the intelligence-based policing model in their strategic plan in 2009 and expanded it throughout the agency in 2012. The essential principle of this model is consistent information sharing throughout the agency. The information is analyzed and used to inform field agents and investigations for crime prevention, disruption, and ultimately crime reduction in the community. The County Sheriff's Office has named this model "Intelligence 2 Action" (I2A).

Since 2009, crime in Sarasota County has been reduced by 30%.

The I2A model prompted a restructuring of the Special Investigations Unit to more appropriately allocate resources and become more efficient. The result was a second Tactical Anti-Crime Unit that focuses on narcotics, areas of high crime, and high-rate offenders. These prolific offenders are targeted with additional information sharing from the State Attorney's Office. Arrests by the Sheriff's Office today are more accurate by targeting high-rate offenders who are prone to high incidences of crime, usually due to lifestyles such as unemployment or criminal associations.

Within six months of deploying two Tactical Anti-Crime Units, there was a dismantling of six burglary rings, the capture of two bank robbers, and the arrest of four prolific offenders committing fraud schemes. Of the 372 arrests within those first six months, 302 resulted in felony charges and 208 in misdemeanors.

The Sarasota County Sheriff's Office has a total of 999 employees (sworn and civilian), and a 2013/14 budget of $91.8 million. The following are some examples of operational response phases that follow I2A evaluations:

- Operation Armistice – targeting gun violence issues
- Operation Copperhead and Operation Meltdown – targeting scrap metal thefts
- Operation Diamondback – targeting dealing in stolen property (specifically gold and jewelry)
- Operations Red Flag, MAGMA (Map Area Garnering More Attention) and Stopwatch – targeting crime hotspots
- Operation Booster Buster – targeting retail theft and organized retail crime.

Source: Sarasota County Sheriff's Office – Smart Policing (online + requested data)

ABUSE

Rate of Reported Child Abuse, ages 5-11

The data reflects on *reported* instances of child abuse against children between the ages of 5 and 11. This does not reflect verified accounts of abuse.
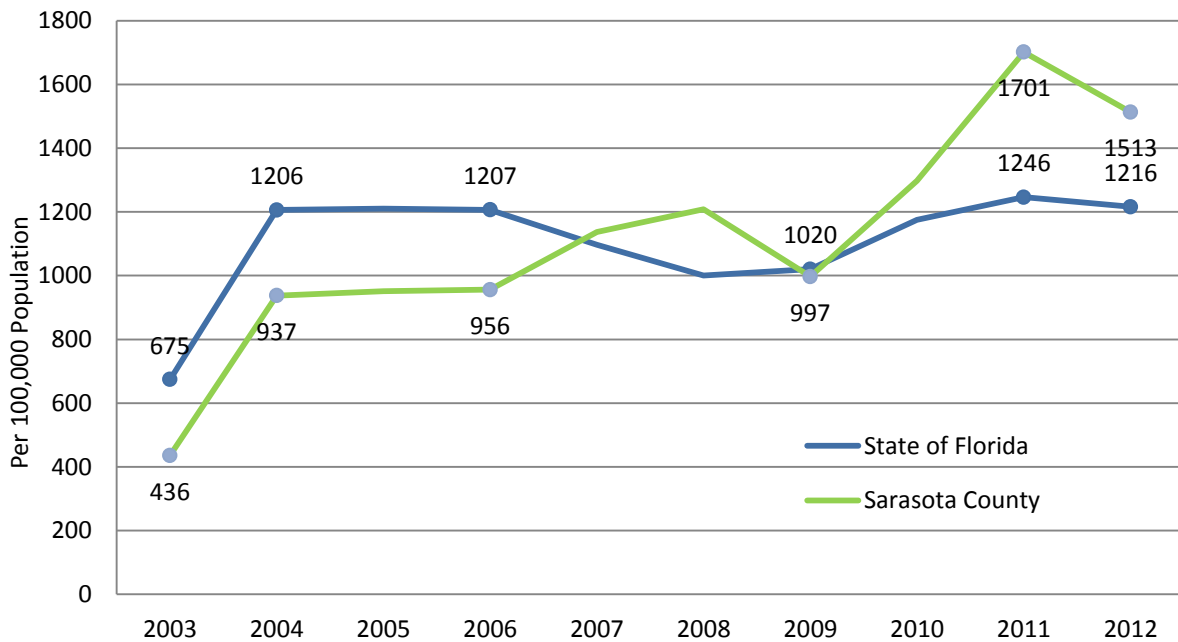

Figure 69: Florida Charts, Florida Department of Health, Division of Public Health Statistics and Performance Management, Florida Department of Children and Families

The data shows that there was a spike in the rate of reported abuse of children ages 5 to 11 in Sarasota County from 2009 to 2011. Since 2011, which was a record high in 10 years, the rate has made a notable decrease. Since 2009, however, the rate of reported child abuse of children ages 5 to 11 has remained well above the state rate.

CAVEAT: The data shows reported incidences of maltreatment and abuse and does not duplicate if more than one count of maltreatment per child is reported. The data is not reflective of the number of occurrences a child may face.

DEFINITION OF CHILD ABUSE:

The Florida Senate defines child abuse as:

> "any willful act or threatened act that results in any physical, mental, or sexual injury or harm that causes or is likely to cause the child's physical, mental, or emotional health to be significantly impaired. Abuse of a child includes acts or omissions."

ABUSE

Rate of Verified Child Abuse Investigations (under age 18)

The data shows the rate of verified cases of child abuse per 10,000 population.
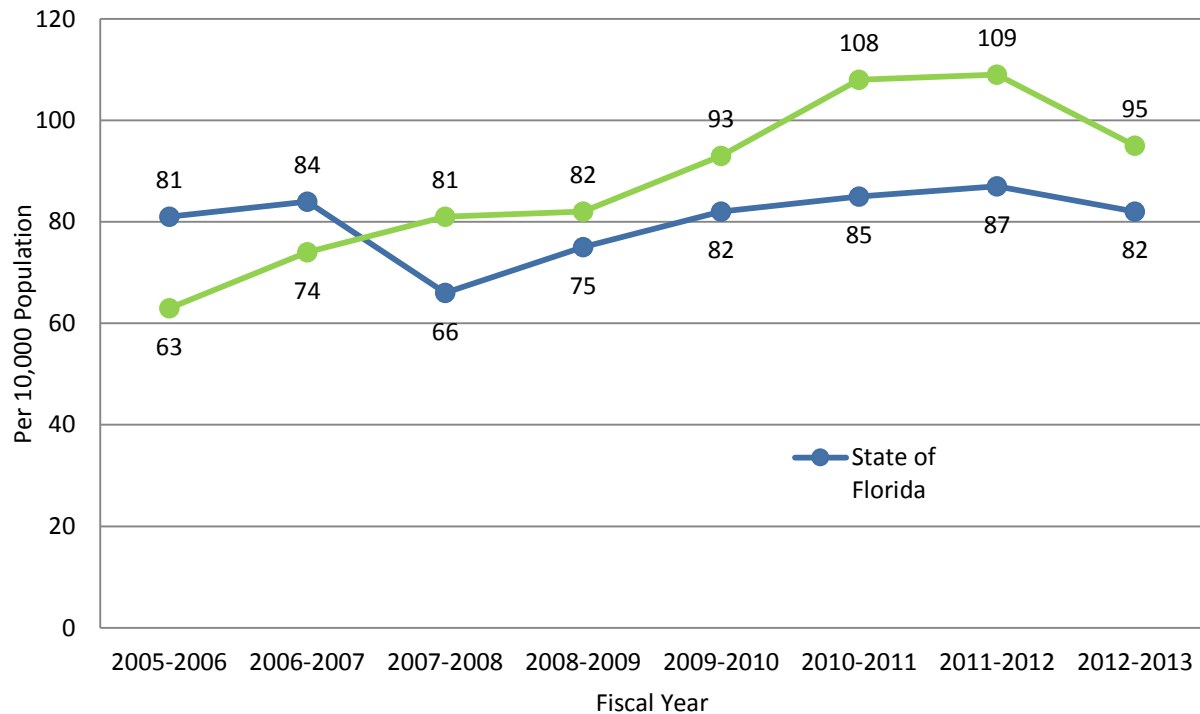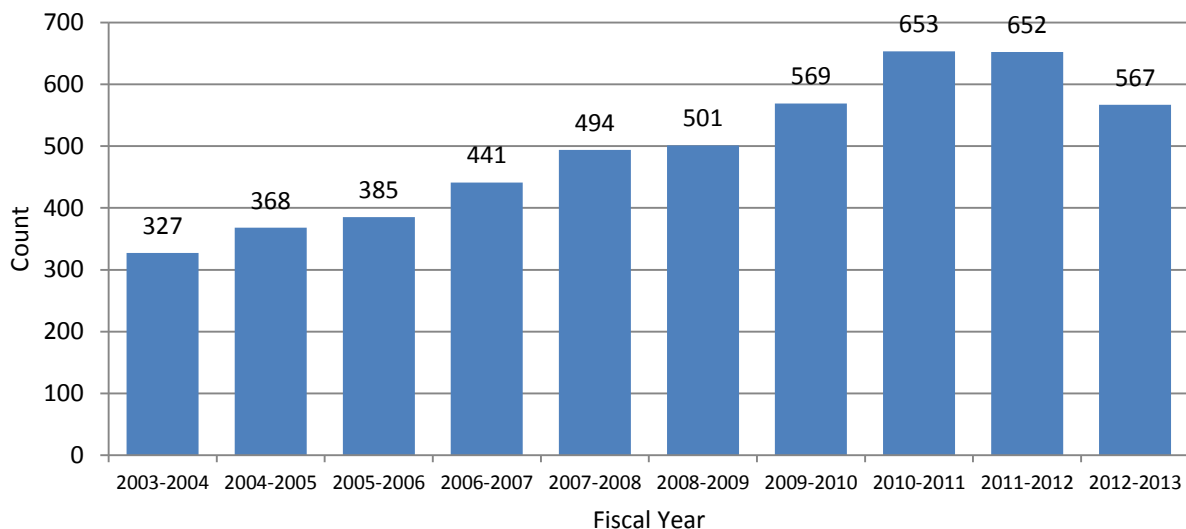This data is representative of children under the age of 18.

Figure 70: Florida Abuse Hotline Information System, Child Protective Investigations, Statewide Child Protective Investigations Trend Reports

Verified abuse is the most serious finding of abuse and follows a formal investigation after a report of abuse has been filed.

This data shows that the rate of abuse against children under the age of 18 has been higher in Sarasota County than the overall average for the State of Florida since 2007/08. Rates for Sarasota started a downward trend in 2011/12. The 2012/13 numbers are lower than the previous year, showing an improvement, but remain above the average rate for Florida.

CAVEAT: Rates were calculated by the SCOPE team using U.S. Census population data.

ABUSE

Count of Verified Child Abuse Investigations (under age 18)
Sarasota County

This data shows the count of investigations that were designated as 'verified' for child abuse under the age of 18. Verified abuse is the most serious finding of abuse and follows a formal investigation after a report of abuse has been filed.

Counts of child abuse climbed steadily in Sarasota County for about 8 years between 2003/04 and 2010/11 wherein counts almost doubled from 327 to 653. Counts have decreased in the past two years, although the 2012/13 fiscal year resulted in a count of about 567 verified cases of child abuse under age 18.

Figure 71: Florida Abuse Hotline Information System, Child Protective Investigations, Statewide Child Protective Investigations Trend Reports

What factors would improve reporting child abuse?

We have already mentioned that crimes of abuse are historically underreported. Children are especially disadvantaged as they might not have an easy means to reporting accounts of abuse.
The peer review group indicated there are many other factors to consider. Such as:

- Increased and more highly focused interest from groups and authorities on the issue of child abuse.
- Groups and authorities may be collecting better data.
- Sarasota County and the State of Florida have been making significant efforts to reduce prescription drug misuse. In these campaigns, children are sometimes removed by the Department of Children and Families (DCF) if they are seen to be in a dangerous or unhealthy situation – roughly 80% of children in such situations were removed by the DCF.

ABUSE

Rate of Verified Maltreatment in Adult Investigations (age 60+)

This data shows the rates of *verified* maltreatment investigations for adults age 60 and over in Florida and Sarasota County.

The data shows that rates of maltreatment against adults, ages 60 and over, has increased in the county after a two year declining rate following a peak rate in 2009/2010. The county has, over the past nine years, been struggling with maintaining a declining rate of maltreatment against adults. The state rate, however, has maintained a consistent rate of maltreatment since a sharp decline in 2007/2008.
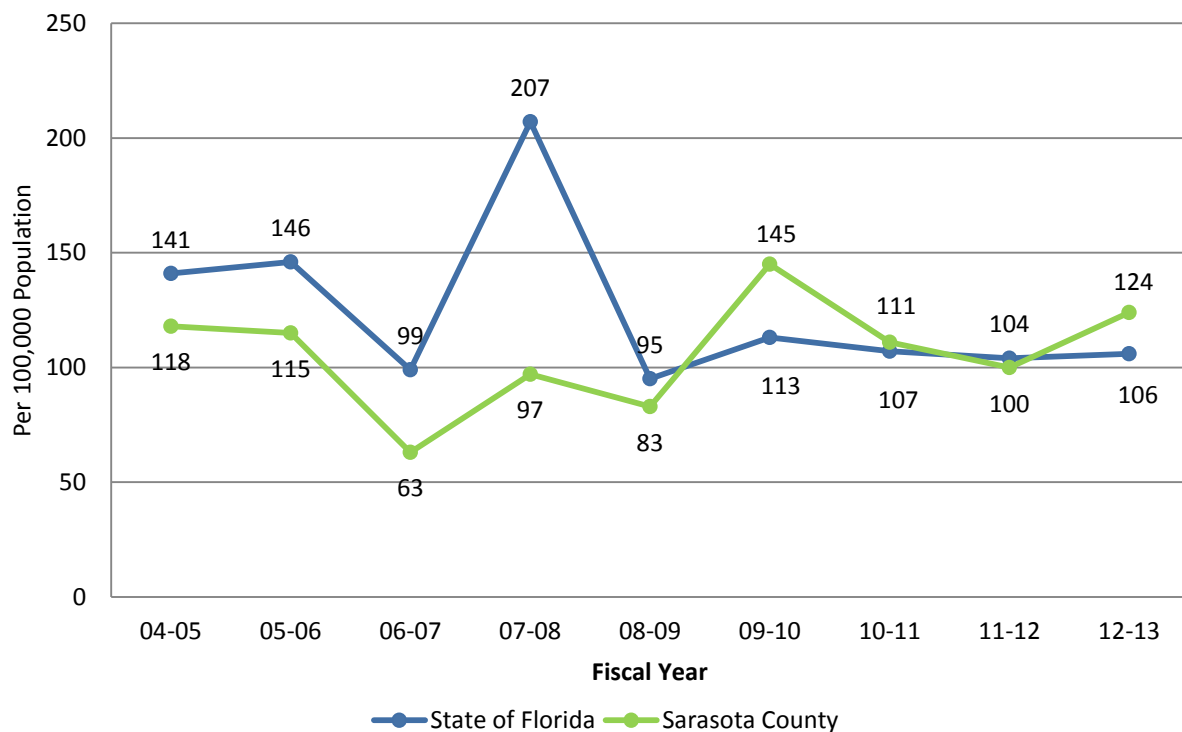
Figure 72: Department of Children and Families, Adult Protective Services

CAVEAT: The counts on which these rates were calculated are considered "exploded" numbers which account for all victims within a report and provide a more realistic frequency of abuse (there may be more than one victim in a report which these numbers account for). Rates were calculated by the SCOPE team using U.S. Census population data.

DEFINITION OF ADULT ABUSE:

The Florida Senate defines adult abuse as:
"Any willful act or threatened act by a relative, caregiver, or household member which causes or is likely to cause significant impairment to a vulnerable adult's physical, mental, or emotional health. Abuse includes acts and omissions."

What are some consequences of abuse?

There are many aspects of abuse and some consequences might not manifest until significant time has passed. They include:

Physical Health
Brain development is at its peak during early years of development. Head trauma may show long-term impairments due to damage to the brain or spinal cord. Other cases of neglect may resurface in later years as diabetes, respiratory or cardiovascular health issues.

Psychological Health
Infants and youth who change primary caregivers as a result of abuse often face issues with social attachments, mental health issues such as depression, anxiety, borderline personality disorder, and emotional regulation. Additionally, studies on abused children show that some victims have long-term issues of cognitive function that lead to language problems or slower academic achievement.

Behavioral Consequences
Abuse victims are more likely to partake in activities that will lead to higher chances of STD contraction and juvenile delinquency. As was mentioned, grade repetition and academic difficulties are higher in abuse victims than individuals who have not been abused. Additionally, abuse victims are more likely to smoke cigarettes, drink excessively and consume illicit drugs.

Societal Consequences
Society pays direct costs for the treatment of child abuse victims, several times higher than other leading societal costs such as diabetes and stroke. However, it has been shown that for every $1 invested in prevention, $47 is saved on treatment. Other indirect financial costs include use of the healthcare system, juvenile detention and adult criminal activity, substance abuse, domestic violence, etc.

Source: U.S. Department of Health & Human Services, Administration for Children and Families, Child Welfare Information Gateway

The State of Florida recognizes five types of abuse:

Neglect   Abandonment
Physical Abuse   Emotional Abuse
Sexual Abuse

24-hr Abuse Hotline
1.800.962.2873
1.800.96.ABUSE

It is important to report any instances of abuse or neglect. Reporting instances of abuse is a legal and ethical responsibility.

Motor Vehicle Safety

Counts of Alcohol Related/Suspected Motor Vehicle Crashes
Sarasota County

This data shows the absolute number of reported incidences in Sarasota County where a traffic crash occurred that involved a driver and/or pedestrian who was reported or suspected of being under the influence of alcohol.

Since 2001, there seems to be a steadily declining trend in the total count of motor vehicle crashes that are related or suspect to alcohol. In 2011, there were a total of 314 reported alcohol related/suspected motor vehicle crashes, the lowest count in more than a decade.
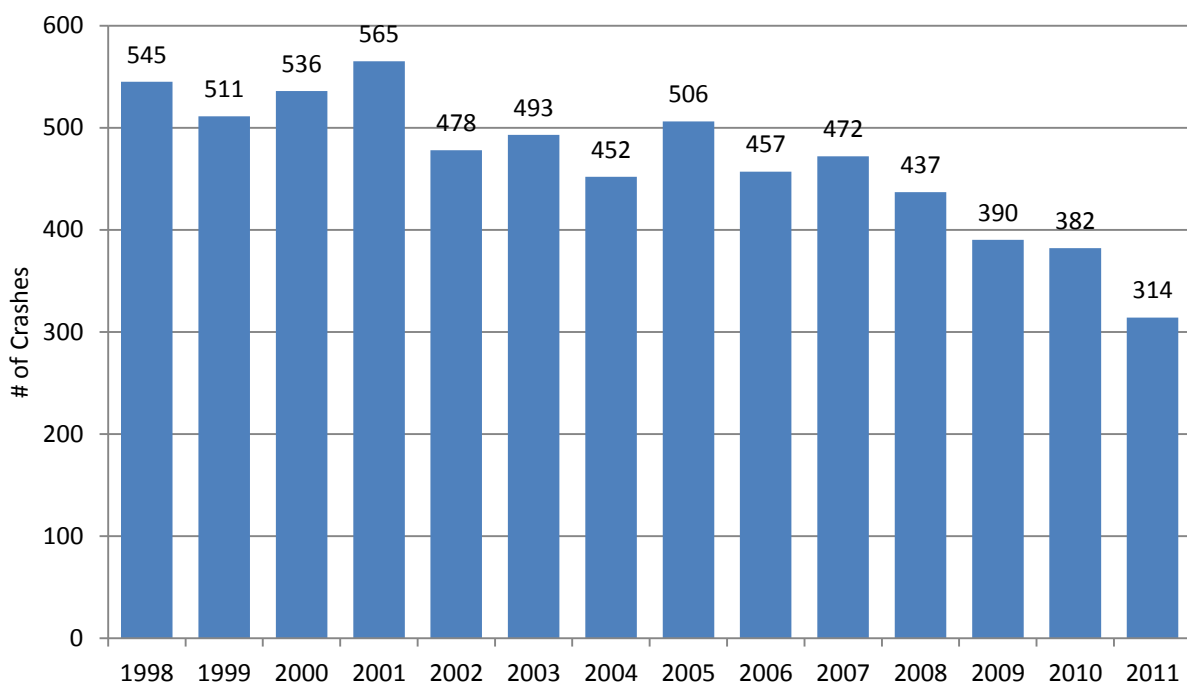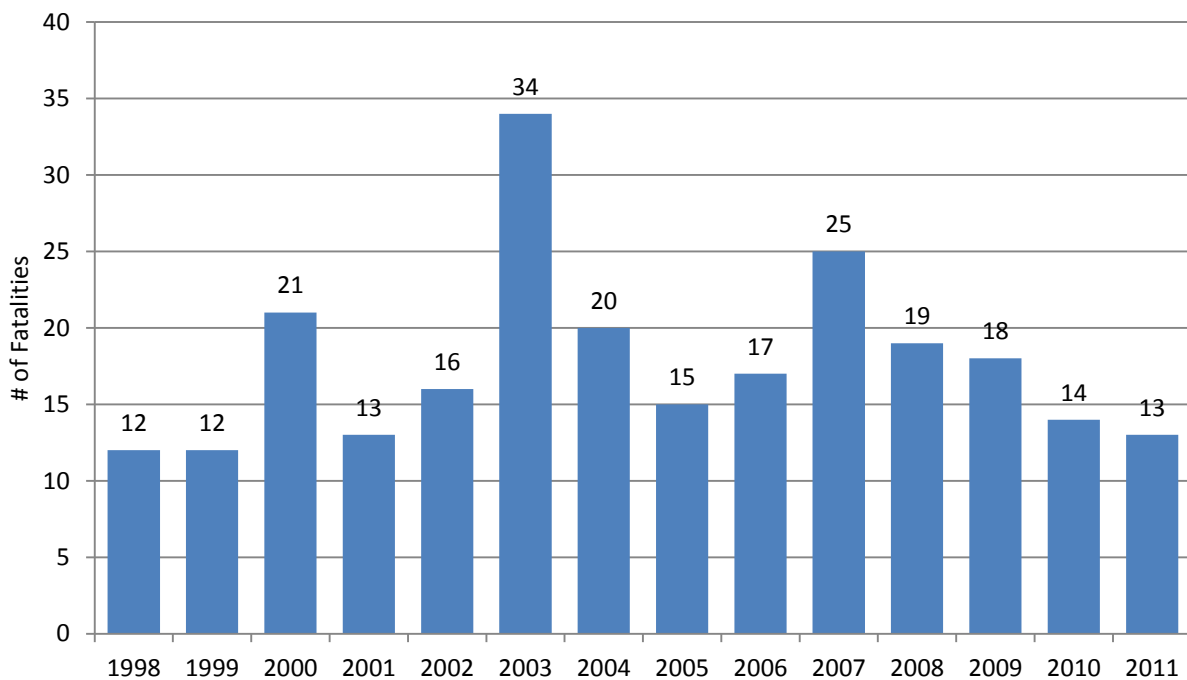

Figure 73: Florida Department of Highway Safety and Motor Vehicles, Florida's Integrated Report Exchange System

CAVEAT The data for traffic crashes only include incidences that occurred on a road that is open to the public. Crashes occurring on private property are not included. This data does not include motorcycles. The data includes incidences where either the driver or pedestrian was affected by alcohol, although it does not discriminate between drivers/pedestrians under varying levels of intoxication.

Counts of alcohol related or suspected motor vehicle crashes for 2012 were not included due to data inconsistencies.

Motor Vehicle Safety

Counts of Alcohol Related/Suspected Motor Vehicle Fatalities
Sarasota County

The data shows the absolute number of reported incidences in Sarasota County of traffic crashes that resulted in one or more fatalities and involved in or were suspected of alcohol use.

Although 2003 has the highest number of incidences at a total of 34 reported incidences, there is no clear downward trend to suggest a steady decrease in the number of traffic crash fatalities that are related or suspect to alcohol. Since 2007, however, the fatality counts do make a promising decline and have reached low figures similar to those a decade ago.
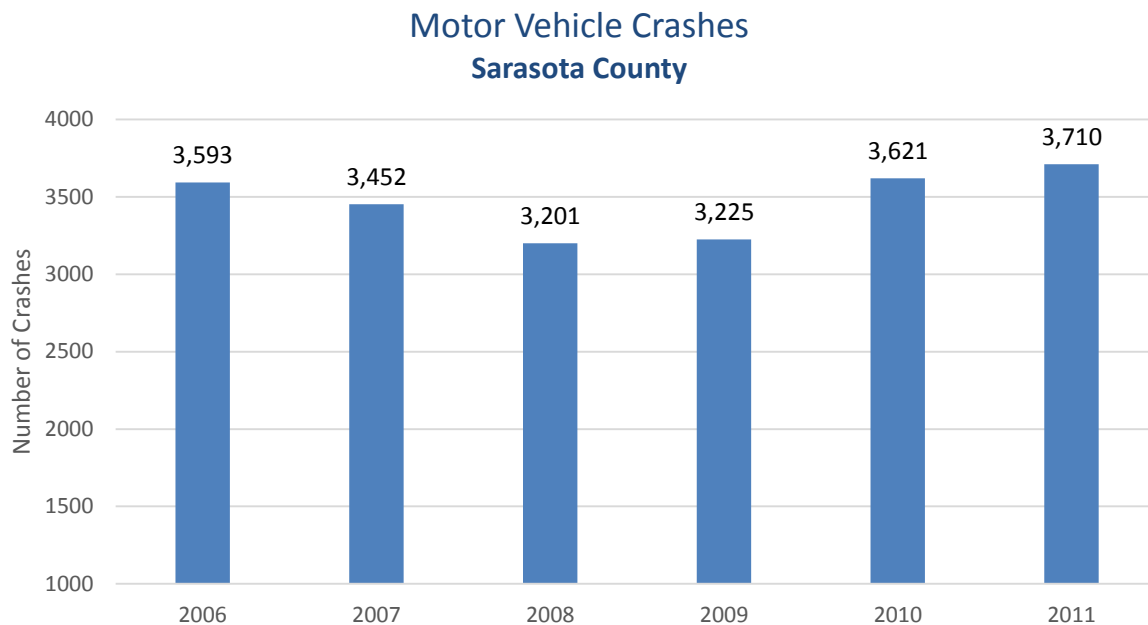

Figure 74: Florida Department of Highway Safety and Motor Vehicles, Florida's Integrated Report Exchange System https://firesportal.com/

The data does not discriminate between drivers under varying levels of intoxication. The data only counts incidences of crashes that involved fatalities and does not count the total number of fatalities per incidence. Therefore, total number of crash fatalities could be higher than the number of fatal crash incidences where alcohol was involved or suspected. Additionally, this data accounts for fatalities that occurred within 30 days of the incident and that are a direct result of that incident.

Counts of alcohol related or suspected motor vehicle crashes for 2012 were not included due to data inconsistencies.

Motor Vehicle Safety

Counts of pedestrians, bicyclist and motorcyclist crashes with motor vehicles in Sarasota County. Data is from 2011. Accurate data was not available for 2012.

Injured	Fatal
121	**8**

Pedestrians

Injured	Fatal
154	**4**

Bicyclists

Injured	Fatal
135	**5**

Motorcyclists

Source: Florida Department of Highway Safety and Motor Vehicles, Florida's Integrated Report Exchange System https://firesportal.com/

In 2011, there were almost 4,000 motor vehicle crashes in Sarasota County alone. This is part of an increase in crash rates since 2008, where the number of crashes was the lowest in the last five years – about 3,200 motor vehicle crashes in 2008.

Motor Vehicle Crashes
Sarasota County

Figure 75: Florida Department of Highway Safety and Motor Vehicles, Florida's Integrated Report Exchange System

The National Safety Council reports that motorist surveys perceive aggressive drivers to be a top threat to motor vehicle safety. However, many drivers overlook their own aggressive driving tendencies. The National Safety Council reports data that show, nationally, an increase in crashes associated with speed.

What are the tell-tale signs of aggressive driving?

- Road Rage: Angry commentary, yelling, hand gestures, flashing headlights, overuse of your horn
- Maintaining speeds above the speed limit
- Rapid lane changes, or 'weaving'
- Running red or yellow lights
- Tailgating

Crash Fatalities
Sarasota County
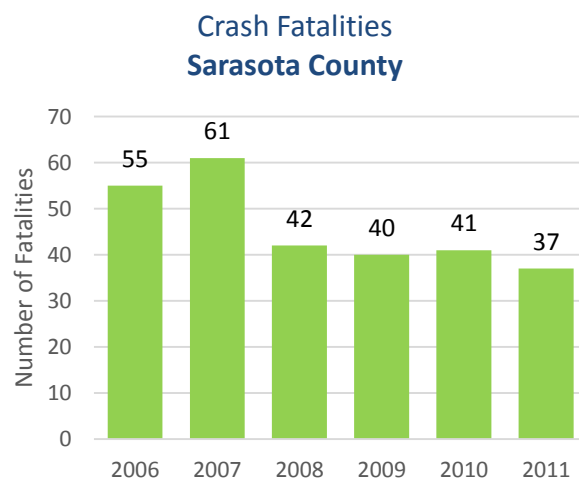
Figure 1: Florida Department of Highway Safety and Motor Vehicles, Florida's Integrated Report Exchange System

Could you be an aggressive driver?

What could be some explanations for the increase in motor vehicle crashes?

Homelessness

2013 Estimated Homeless Count
Sarasota County

357

1

1,102

Total Homeless Count: 1,460

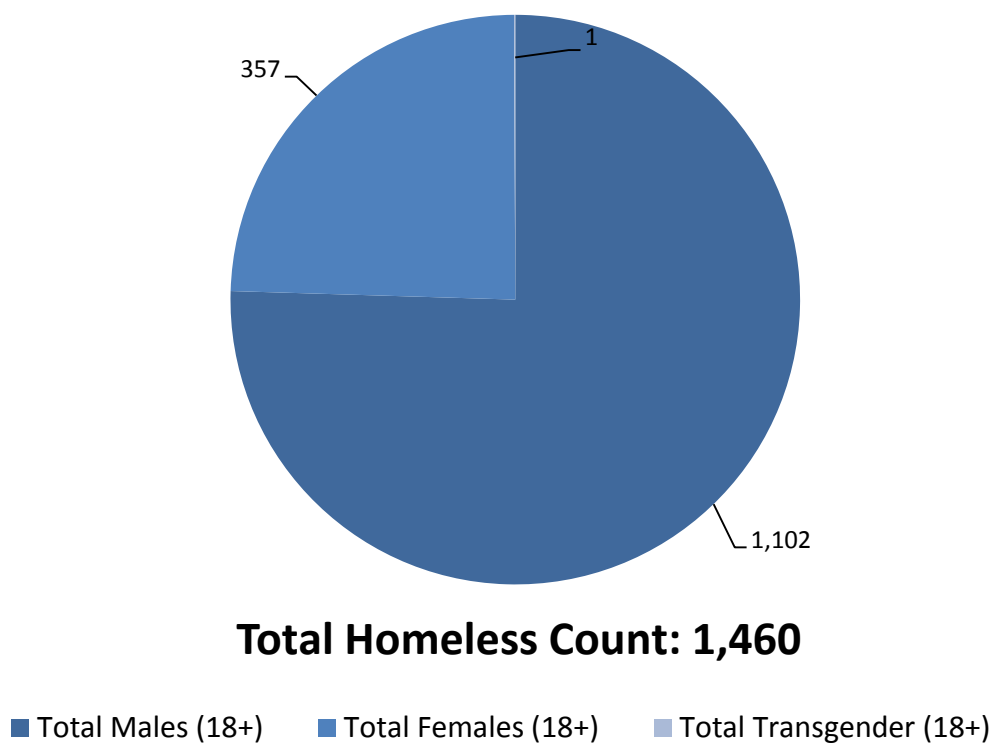■ Total Males (18+)　　■ Total Females (18+)　　■ Total Transgender (18+)

Figure 77: Suncoast Partnership to End Homelessness

The numbers show that there are about 1,460 homeless individuals (above the age of 18) in Sarasota County. The vast majority of homeless are male, comprising about 75% of the adult homeless population in Sarasota County.

Homelessness is a challenging social issue to quantify. Homelessness is a stigmatized social standing, and is challenged by authorities and ordinances that seek to prohibit homelessness or homeless behavior. For this reason, much of the homeless issue exists outside of the public eye. This makes counting numbers of homeless more difficult. These figures should be considered estimates rather than actual counts.

How does the way we think about homelessness affect the way we approach this social issue?

Homelessness

2013 Estimated Homeless Count (Adults 18+), Unmet Need Sarasota County
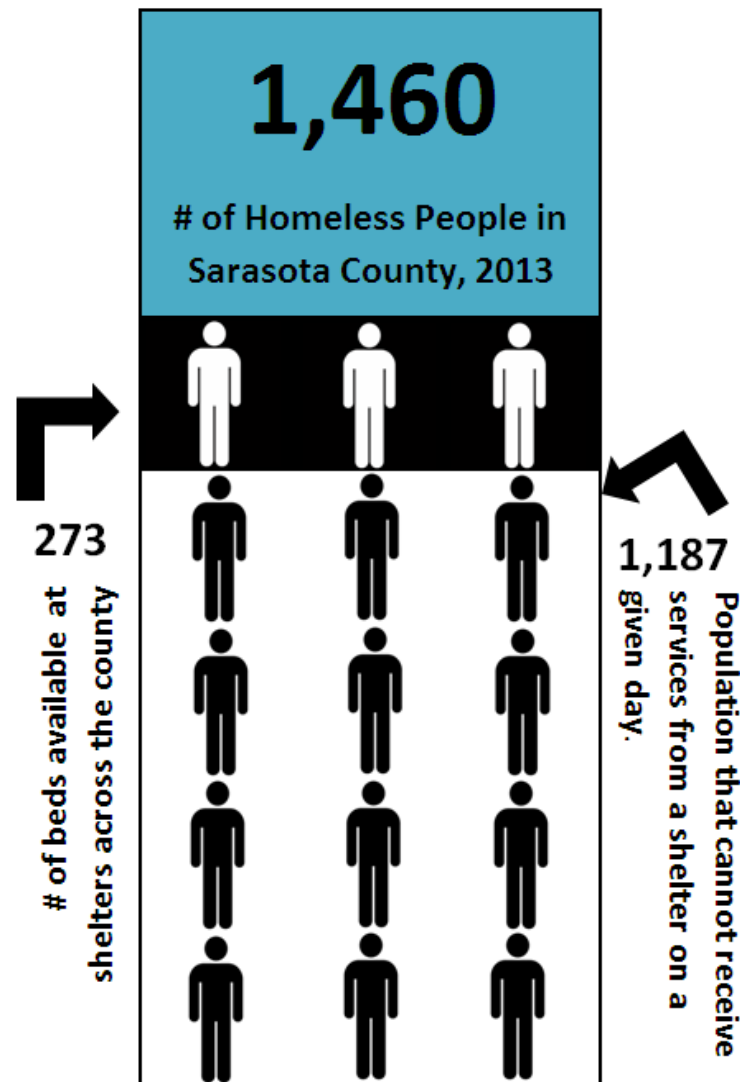
Figure 2: Suncoast Partnership to End Homelessness

The data also shows that there are not sufficient facilities available in Sarasota County to provide aid in the form of shelter beds to the total number of homeless in the county. With only about 273 beds available in shelters to homeless, about 1,187 homeless individuals stay unsheltered overnight.

The data behind the above infographic is from the Dr. Marbut Homeless Survey and was compiled and sourced by the Suncoast Partnership to End Homelessness. The data was specifically collected for Dr. Marbut's analysis of homelessness in Sarasota County. The data was collected between September 15 - 23, 2013 by many participating agencies and volunteers. The data above shows unduplicated counts.

Homelessness

2013 Homeless Children/Youth and Families, by nighttime accommodation
Sarasota County

The majority of homeless children in Sarasota County are between the ages of six and seventeen (73%). About 20% of children who are homeless are under the age of six. **The average age of a child facing homelessness in Sarasota County is ten years-old.**

Survey Conducted: August 20 – October 20, 2013
Total Families Surveyed: 348
Total Children/Youth Surveyed: 637
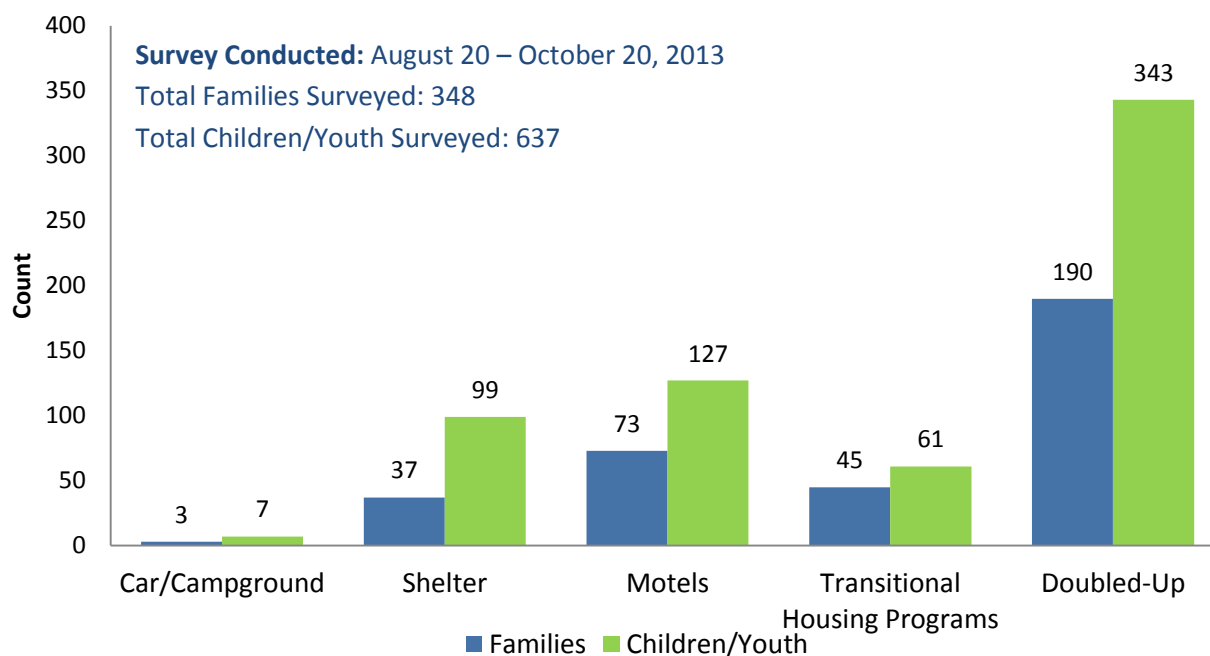
Figure 79: Homeless Committee of the Community Alliance

The above graph shows counts of families and children/youth that are homeless by temporary nighttime accommodation. Based on this survey, there were a total of 348 homeless families in 2013 during the time of the count and a total of 637 homeless children/youth. Of those counts, the majority were counted while temporarily 'doubled-up' with other families or individuals. The next highest count in temporary nighttime accommodation for families and children were in motels. Counts were followed closely with families and children temporarily living in shelters and transitional housing programs.

This data was collected by many different participating organizations who submitted data to the Homeless Committee of the Community Alliance. The collected data focused primarily on families and children/youth that are homeless or at imminent risk of becoming homeless. The totals for children/youth and families should be considered separately as children are counted as individuals and families are counted as a unit of more than one individual.

Now that you have reviewed the full set of indicators for the social domain of well-being, which indicators strike you as significant?

During several workshops hosted by SCOPE with partnered organizations, resident participants placed an emphasis on several indicators that they identified as critical to assessing the well-being of Sarasota County's social environment. These included rates of violent crime, as well as rates of child and elder abuse.

Let's review the recent trends in those indicators:

SARASOTA COUNTY

Rates of Violent Crime
(including murder, forcible sex offenses, robbery, aggravated assault)

(2009→2013)

-17%

Rate of Verified Child Abuse Investigations
(under age 18)

(Fiscal Year 2011/12→2012/13)

-13%

Rate of Verified Maltreatment in Adult Investigations
(ages 60 and over)

(Fiscal Year 2004/05 → 2012/13)

+5%

(Fiscal Year 2011/12 → 2012/13)

+24%

When looking at the Rate of Verified Maltreatment in Adult Investigations, it would be important to note that the most recent trend and the overall trend both show overall increases. However, looking at the data earlier in this chapter would show that there is no consistent trend, as shown by the data below.
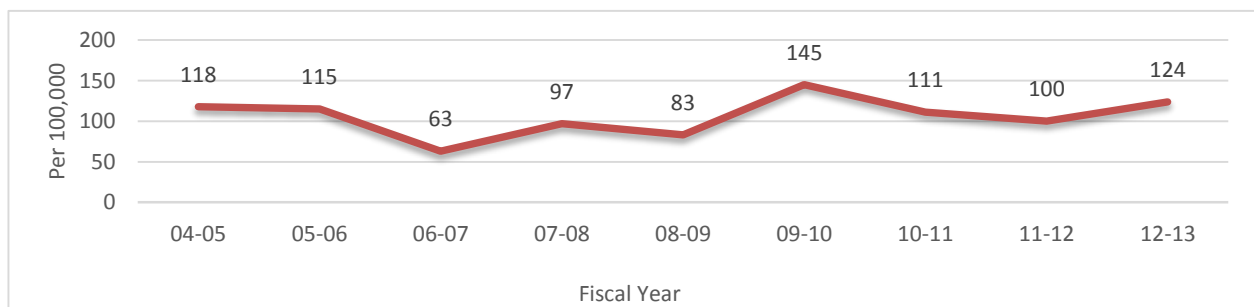
This could be due to variances in programs and initiatives by government, private or community organizations to target and combat adult abuse. As a result, an increase in cases are reported and investigated. When more focus is placed on a topic of interest, greater efforts are made to improve counting and collect data.

Underreporting

Much of the data in this domain of well-being is dependent on variables such as: efficiency of involved organizations and departments, self-reporting, initiatives, social stigmas, etc. Keep in mind that these counts only represent those cases that have been reported.

TRENDS TO KEEP OUR EYES ON
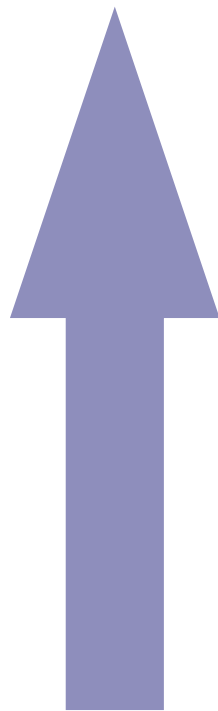
Rates of Abuse
Despite better data collecting efforts or increased focus on the subject, abuse is historically underreported. This is to say that these figures do not present the most accurate picture of rates of abuse in Sarasota County.

Child Abuse
While verified abuse investigations have declined from Fiscal Year 2011/12 to 2012/13, the counts from fiscal year 2003/04 until 2010/11 almost doubled from 327 to 653.

Elder Abuse
Given the fact that about 40% of Sarasota County's population is aged 60 or over, elder abuse is a significant social issue that must always be considered and monitored. The rate of elder abuse increased from 100 to 124 (per 100,000 population) between fiscal year 2011/12 to fiscal year 2012/13. The average rate of elder abuse in Sarasota County is about 106 (per 100,000) annually.

Homelessness
In 2013, an increased effort and initiative has been undertaken in Sarasota County to challenge the issue of homelessness. A professional consultant on homelessness was hired to assess the situation and provide best-practice guidelines for Sarasota County in addressing and improving the dynamics of homelessness. We can expect that counts of homelessness will improve over the next few years as a strategic approach is taken to manage homelessness. More actors within the County work toward the goal of eradicating homelessness.

POSITIVE TRENDS

- **The rate of violent crime has been on a constant decline for the past 16 years!**
  Sarasota County has consistently remained below the state average rates for violent crimes. At the same time, Sarasota County is seeing all-time-lows in the number of violent crimes committed and seized by authorities.

- **The rate of property crimes have declined after a period of wavering and stagnating trends!**
  Similar to violent crimes, Sarasota County has seen an overall decrease in property crimes. The most recent year shows a record low in committed and seized property crimes.

- **Overall counts of motor vehicle crashes associated or suspected of alcohol have been steadily declining for more than a decade!**
  While counts of such crashes increased between 2011 and 2012, from 314 to 342, 2011 marked the year in which counts of alcohol related or suspected motor vehicle crashes were the lowest in more than a decade.

"'My humanity is caught up,

is inextricably bound up, in yours.'"

- Desmond Tutu, on *Ubuntu*

We encourage your own analysis of these indicators. Our intent is to spark conversation about issues you see in the data and to inspire action that comes from our community.

What indicators did we not include that would best show the overall health of Sarasota County? Please let us know!

SC🟆PE

About Our Sources

Florida Department of Law Enforcement, Florida Statistical Analysis Center, Uniform Crime Reports

fdle.state.fl.us

"To promote public safety and strengthen domestic security by providing services in partnership with local, state, and federal criminal justice agencies to prevent, investigate, and solve crimes while protecting Florida's citizens and visitors."

- FL Dept. of Law Enforcement

The Florida Department of Law Enforcement administers the Florida Statistical Analysis Center (FSAC). The FSAC collects and analyses criminal justice data from across the state and prepares reports for policy, planning, and program development. These same reports are made available to the general public and are used in public research, academia, etc. Additionally, the FSAC provides Uniform Crime Data which is collected from counties across the state and provided online for public use.

Florida CHARTS, Florida Department of Health, Division of Public Health Statistics & Performance Management,

floridacharts.com

"The Florida Department of Health works to protect, promote & improve the health of all people in Florida through integrated state, county, & community efforts."

- FL Dept. of Health

The Florida Department of Health's Division of Public Health Statistics and Performance provide an online tool called CHARTS (The Florida Community Health Assessment Resource Tool Set). This database collects data around a wide range of indicators. Users can compare indicators across counties, control for certain variables, download data tables and graphic visualizations. CHARTS was designed with the intention of providing accessible public data and aiding in community health assessment.

Florida Department of Children and Families, Florida Abuse Hotline Information System
Child Protective Investigations *and* Adult Protective Services
myflfamilies.com

" *To help protect children and vulnerable adults from abuse, neglect, abandonment, and*
   exploitation."
         - Abuse Hotline

The Florida Department of Children and Families (DCF) is a state agency that focuses on providing services and aid to groups ranging from children, families and elders, to issues of homelessness, refugees, domestic abuse, and adoption. The Florida Abuse Hotline is a service provided by the DCF and is the central receiving point of abuse reports. Following a legitimate report of abuse, formal investigations are undertaken by the DCF. This data is provided in the Florida Abuse Hotline Information System and is available upon request.

Florida Department of Highway Safety and Motor Vehicles,
Florida's Integrated Report Exchange System
firesportal.com

" *Courtesy, Service, Protection."*
   - FL Dept. of Highway Safety and Motor Vehicles

This state department is concerned with the safety of the road and highway systems in the State of Florida. The DHSMV provides services ranging from driver's licenses, vehicle registration and titles, to managing motor vehicle crashes and traffic incidences. All data from the DHSMV is made publicly available on Florida's Integrated Report Exchange System (FIRES). FIRES is a public access point for all traffic accidents filed by law enforcement agencies across Florida. All law enforcement agencies are mandated to report incidences in their districts to the DHSMV.

Suncoast Partnership to End Homelessness
suncoastpartnership.org

" The mission of the Suncoast Partnership to End Homelessness is to prevent, reduce, and ultimately end homelessness in our community by developing and executing an actionable plan in collaboration with our community partners."
   -

The Suncoast Partnership to End Homelessness is a community organization in Sarasota and Manatee Counties. Founded by community leaders in 2005, the organization has support from local and state governments, the Department of Children and Families, and private donations. The partnership works

on issues of homelessness by transgressing the county boundaries and pushing for collaboration between different organizations and actors. Additionally, they are actively involved in community education about homelessness and affordable housing. The Partnership annually submits the Continuum of Care application for our region for competitive funding on homeless programs, administers the Homeless Management Information System and conducts the annual Point-in-Time Survey. The Partnership conducted research for Dr. Robert Marbut, a homelessness consultant hired by Sarasota County.

Community Alliance

 The Community Alliance of Sarasota County is a working group of local health and human service providers, funders and other interested parties. The goal of the Alliance is to foster partnerships, coordination and innovation among the many allied entities that work to improve individual and community health. Each year the Alliance identifies priorities through an engagement process and develops a legislative platform for presentation to Sarasota's legislative delegation.
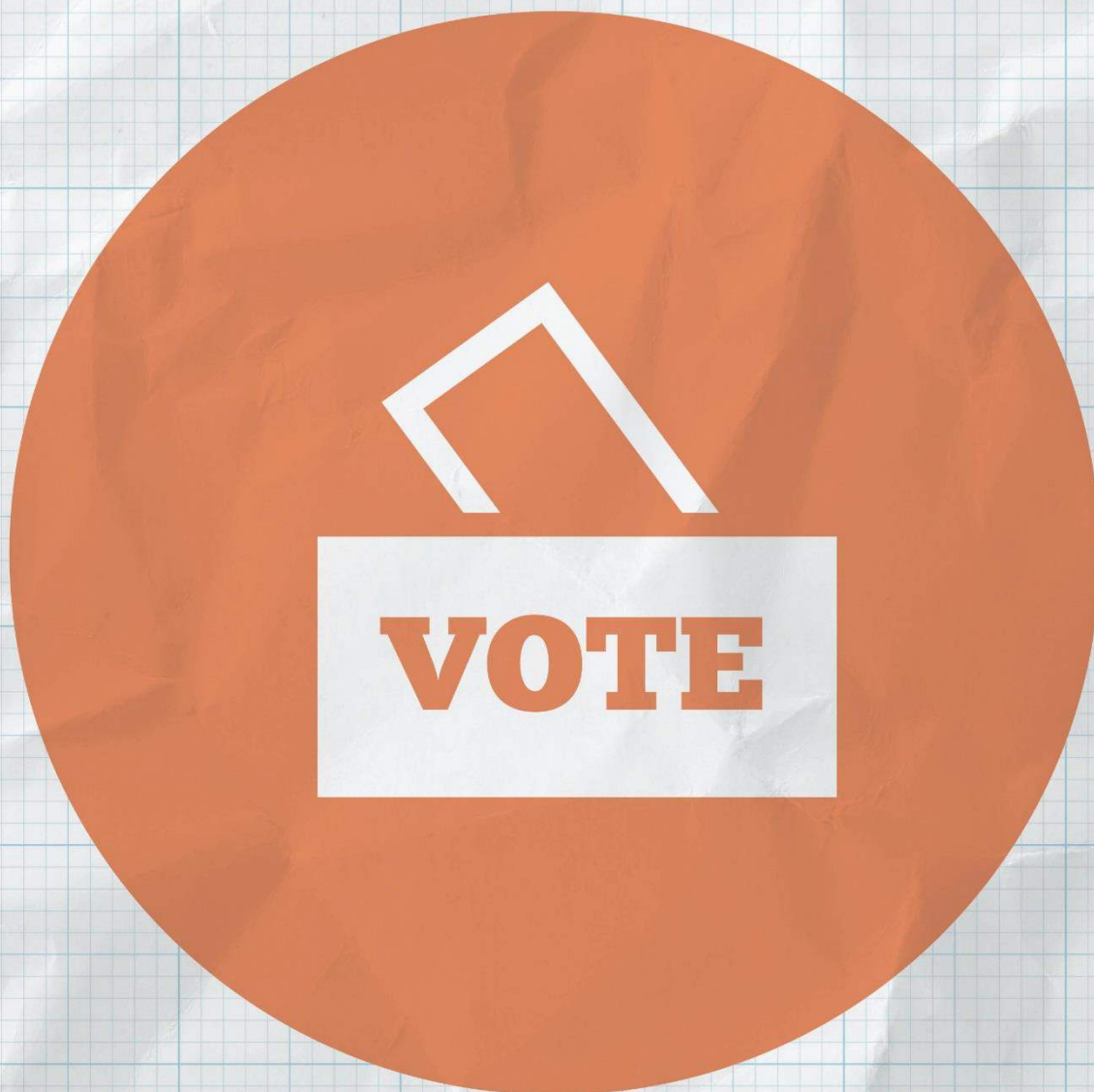
CIVIC
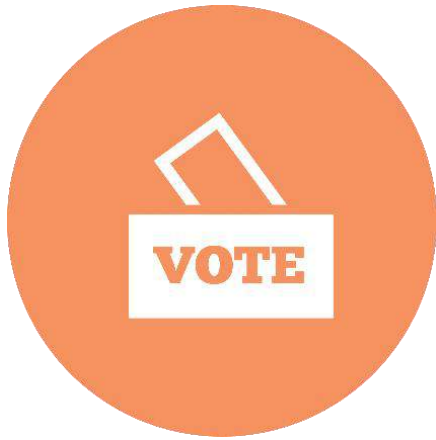
Domain of Well-being:
CIVIC PARTICIPATION

This domain conveys vital information regarding Sarasota County's participation in the democratic process that lies as the bedrock of our values. The indicators in the civic domain include data on the differences in voting registration by a variety of factors, the differences in voting participation in our recent elections, and the utilization of libraries as well as volunteering services in Sarasota County.

Without widespread civic interest and activity, members of our society would be perilously uninvolved in the well-being of their neighbors and uninterested in those defining our laws. When community engagement predominates the public imagination, the community often anticipates changes to the status quo and is reminded that the real power lies within the community's residents.

With the indicators in this domain of well-being, we will be able to:

➔ Monitor the differences between major demographic groups in terms of voter registration, voting preferences, and party affiliation
➔ Observe the distribution of party affiliations over recently redrawn precincts
➔ Examine the rates of voter participation across various dimensions
➔ Determine the extent to which Sarasota County residents are utilizing the County public library system.

While less direct, these metrics reveal the status of potential inequality within our demographic system. Since most of this data is regarding voter registration, the mere act of registering to vote represents a vital step of civic engagement that includes not only voting but engagement in community efforts altogether. Indeed, many civic projects originate from elected officials whom citizen residents nominate in this inherently American process. Should the community focus on improving equality and participation within this civic sphere, residents will stand to live in a truly populist society.

"A republic, by which I mean a government in which the scheme of representation takes place, opens a different prospect and promises the cure which we are seeking."

- James Madison, in a letter to William Hunter
March 11, 1790

Domain of Well-being:
Civic Participation

The Indicators Included

Key Findings

✓ The Republican Party is the political party with the greatest affiliation among Sarasota County registered voters. The second largest political party affiliation is with the Democratic Party, followed by registered voters who do not have a political party affiliation.

✓ The largest age group of registered voters in Sarasota County are adults aged 66 or older. This group of voters make up about 40% of the voting population. The second largest group are adults aged 35-55, which account for about 33% of the voting population.

✓ Of the total number of registered voters in Sarasota County, 89% identify as white, 4% identify as Black/African American, 3% as Hispanic/Latino, and 3% as unknown/undeclared.

✓ The majority of voters (53%) identify as female: followed by male (45%) and unknown/undeclared (2%).

✓ The ratio of female to male voter affiliation is greatest in the Democratic Party.

✓ Seventy-nine percent of registered voters in Sarasota County who identified as Black/African American are aligned with the Democratic Party, the largest alignment of any other race group.

✓ The only race/ethnic group in Sarasota County that had a majority of voters align with the Republican Party were voters that identified as white.

✓ Sarasota County Libraries have higher average library visits per resident than the average rates for both the State of Florida and the nation as a whole! At the same time, Sarasota County libraries successfully run an award-winning library system at an average expenditure per resident lower than the state and the nation.

✓ Sarasota County libraries have higher rates of residents who hold library cards than the state and the nation!

What data is most important to you in this domain of well-being?
Let us know and we'll include it as we continue to update these indicators!

Voter Characteristics

These initial indicators reveal the simplest demographics regarding voter registration in the county. In this section, this data will be examined by party affiliation, age, race, gender, and exercised voting methods without any cross-comparison. This type of raw data will be provided by the Supervisor of Elections office to any interested resident for the cost of the preparation.

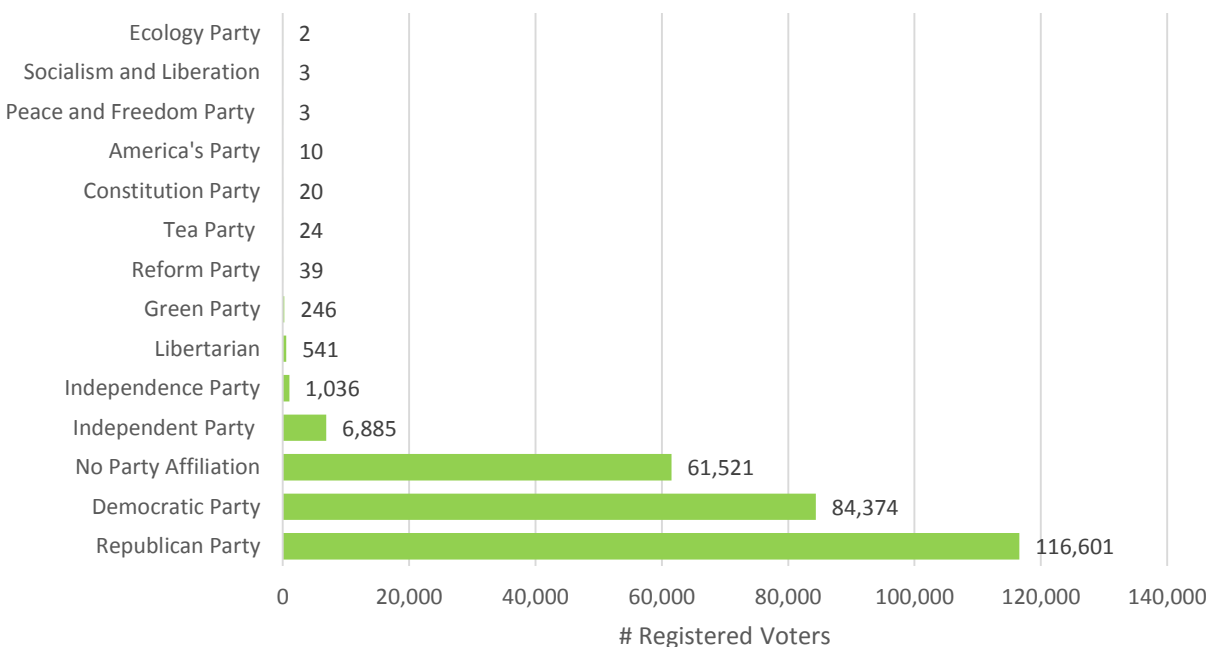**Party Affiliation amongst Registered Voters
Sarasota County**

Party	# Registered Voters
Ecology Party	2
Socialism and Liberation	3
Peace and Freedom Party	3
America's Party	10
Constitution Party	20
Tea Party	24
Reform Party	39
Green Party	246
Libertarian	541
Independence Party	1,036
Independent Party	6,885
No Party Affiliation	61,521
Democratic Party	84,374
Republican Party	116,601

Figure 80: Sarasota County Supervisor of Elections

Of the total of 271,305 registered voters, we can see that the vast majority align themselves with one of our two major political parties: 74% of Sarasota County's registered voters are either Democrats or Republicans. Specifically, we can deduce that 31% align themselves as Democrats, 43% as Republicans, and 23% are without party affiliation. This leaves approximately 3% of county voters to other parties.

Voter Characteristics

Age Distribution amongst Registered Voters
Sarasota County

In this graph we can see the age distribution amongst registered voters: a mildly biphasic, fairly normally distributed curve with a smooth tail that leads to our oldest registered resident at 112 years old. While the distribution is fairly smooth, one can immediately pinpoint our median age of 69 years, much older than US cities on average.
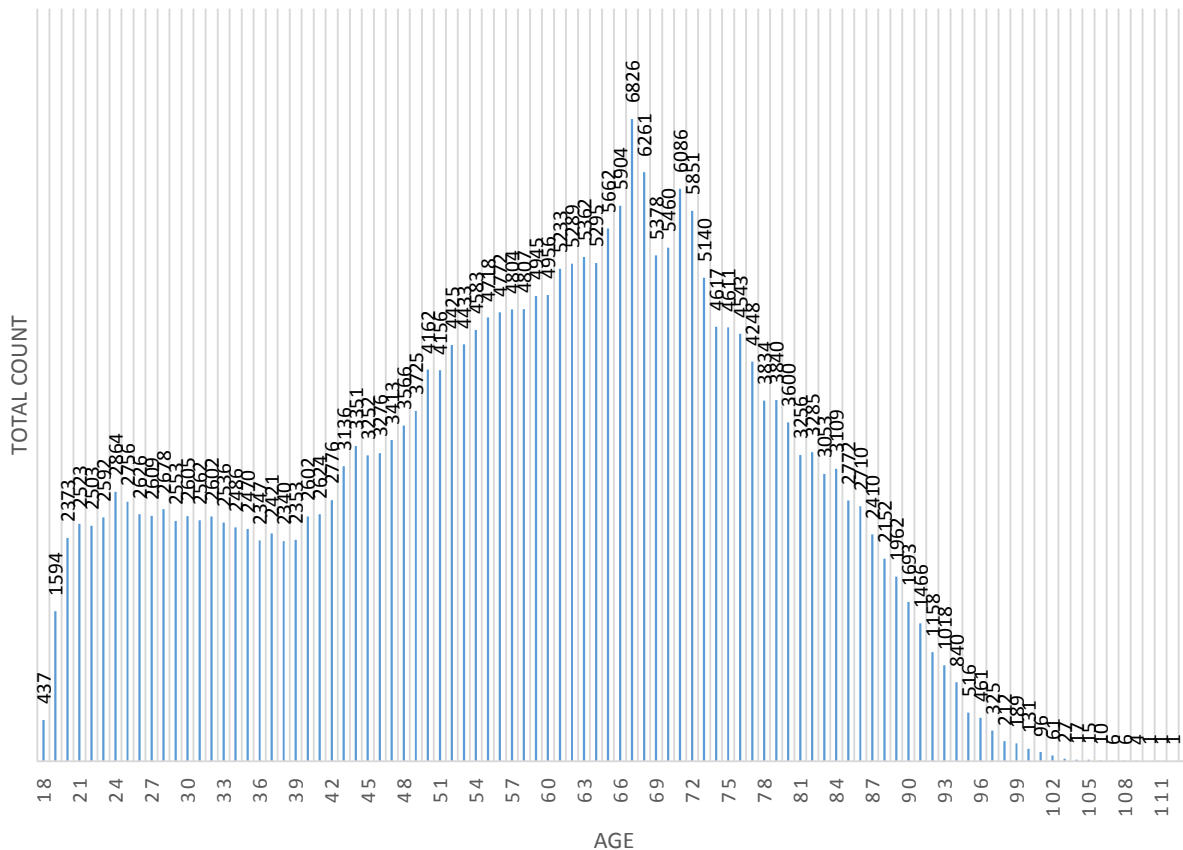

Figure 81: Sarasota County Supervisor of Elections

It is also clear that there is a small peak near 24 years old that comes to a miniature nadir at 39 years old, perhaps representing the population of students drawn by Sarasota County's various institutes of higher learning. The decline as we approach 40 years old suggests a possible economic correlation considering that these are presently considered the years of peak economic output by the US Bureau of Labor. Other possibilities include higher civic participation amongst these younger and older groups that exhibit such excellent registration retention.

Voter Characteristics

The chart shows the current racial distribution of Sarasota County citizens who are registered to vote.

We see the 89% predominance of self-identified "White" individuals with the three nearly-tied next most populated races/ethnicities: 4% identified as Black/African American, 3% Hispanic/Latino, and 3% preferring not to disclose their race/ethnicity.
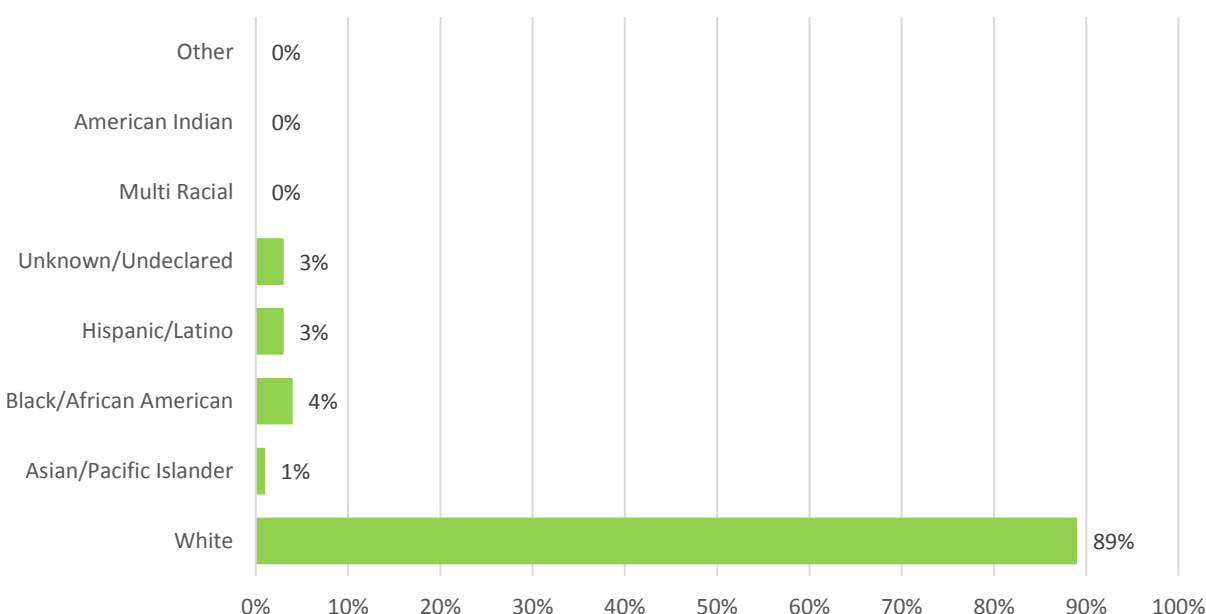

Figure 82: Sarasota County Supervisor of Elections

This profound homogeneity can be explained in several ways: as a genuine representation of our population, as a disparity in civic participation by race, or by factors influencing the self-reported race/ethnicity identification. No doubt, all of these conclusions may hold various degrees of truth within them and this report will best attempt to evaluate the first two of these explanations, leaving the possible social and psychological implications of the self-reporting system to your own interpretation.

For reference, the US Census data from 2010 suggests a population in Sarasota County that is 90% White, 5% Black/African American, and 8% Hispanic/Latino.

You are invited to consider these implications further as we compare other metrics to this speculative yet significant demographic of race.

Voter Characteristics

The following pie chart delineates our registered voters from the perspective of self-identified gender.

Again we are presented with multiple possibilities to consider with this data, though it can be verified that the US Census data from 2010 loosely adheres to this distribution with 52% of the population identifying as female and 48% as male. There appears to be a general alignment with the 2010 Census.
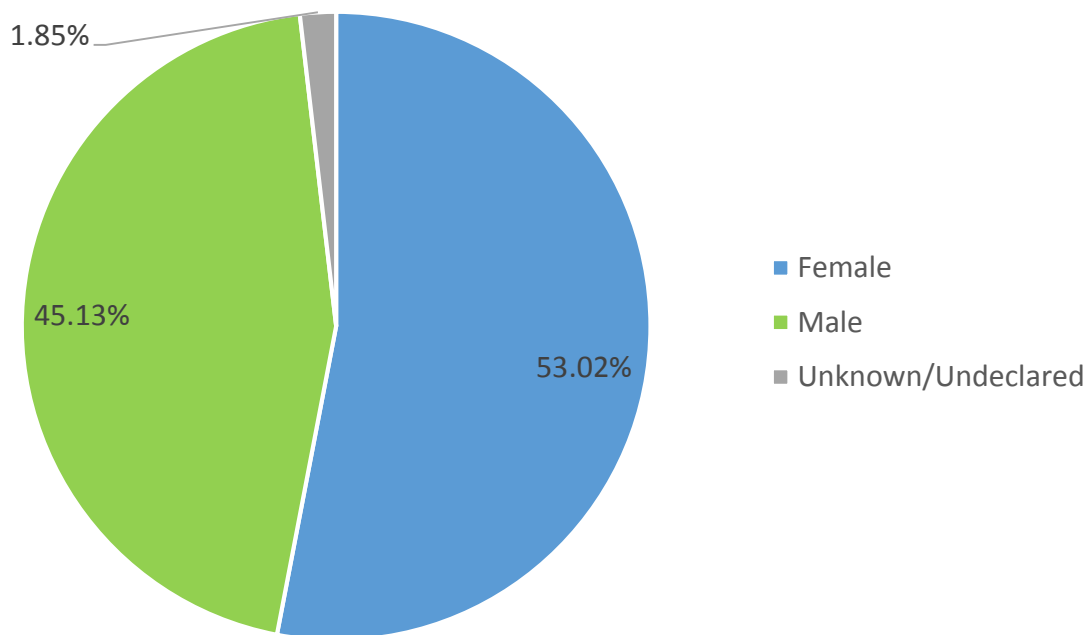

1.85%

45.13%

53.02%

- Female
- Male
- Unknown/Undeclared

Figure 83: Sarasota County Supervisor of Elections

Political Party Affiliation

The following sections will analyze the data presented in the previous section by breaking down those measures and comparing the demographics of registered voters in Sarasota County. This can bring to light interesting dynamics within the voting population. Keep an eye out for those dynamics in the data!

Party Affiliation, by Gender
Sarasota County

In the graphs we witness many similarities: the numbers of those without party affiliation, Republicans, and Independents seem to be approximately the same across gender irrespective of the greater quantity of women in Sarasota County.

An interesting data point is that there are about 18,000 more female than male Democrats. Considering our total voter registration pool, this is approximately 7% of all voters and 21% of all Democrats over the equivalent representation of males.
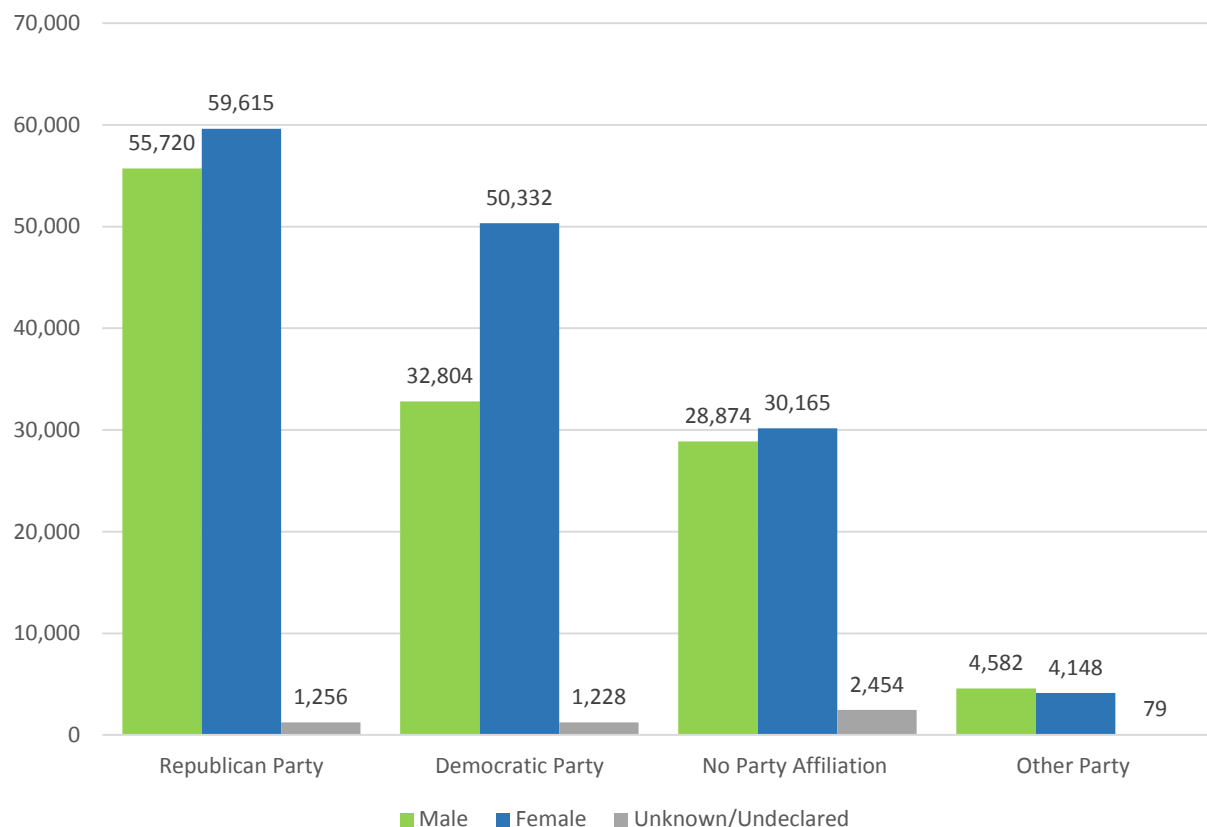
Figure 84: Sarasota County Supervisor of Elections

Political Party Affiliation

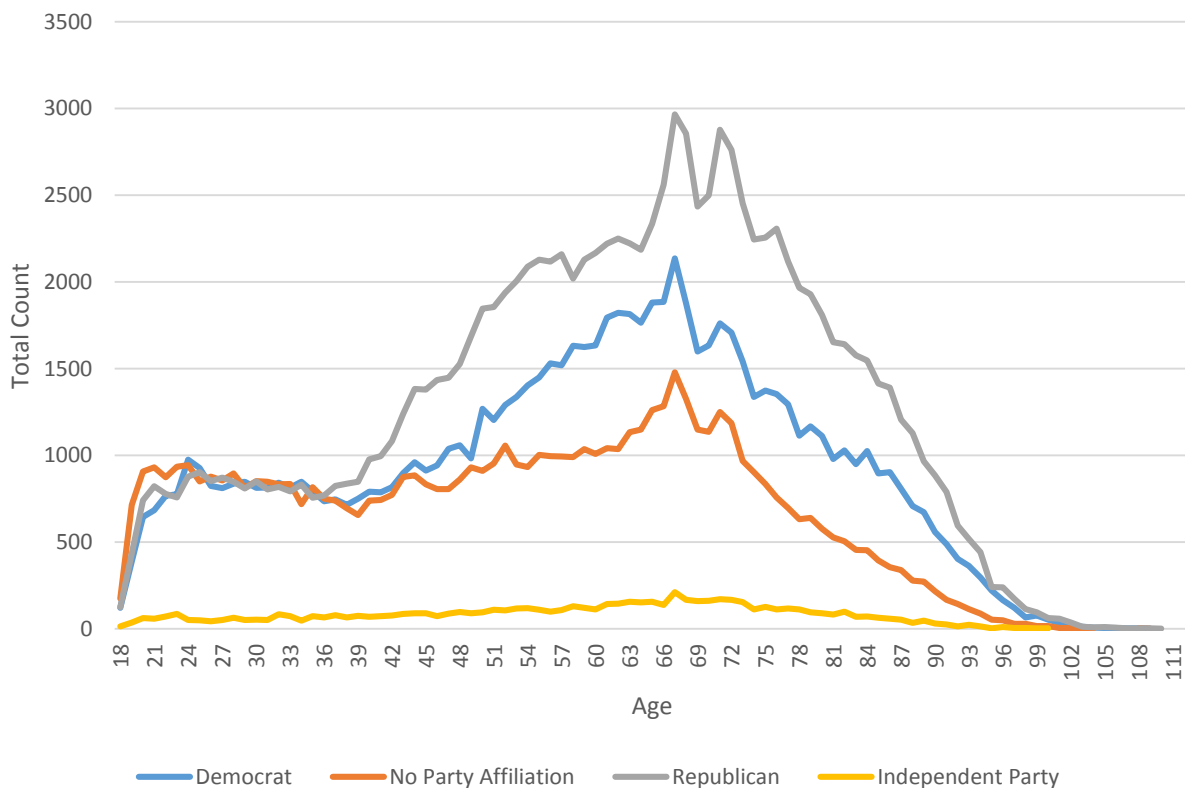This chart looks at the party affiliation of registered voters in Sarasota County by the voter's age.

Figure 85: Sarasota County Supervisor of Elections

The data show an interesting trend. As overall voter registration increases with age, the differentiation in party affiliation also increases. Registered voters in the range of 24 to 36 show a very even distribution between the Democratic Party, the Republican Party, or choosing no party affiliation. Older voters show a separation between party affiliation – becoming noticeable in the 40 or older age groups and growing distinct in older ages.

The peak in registered voters seen in the ages between 65 and 72 for all political parties mirrors the age distribution of the Sarasota County population and the high voting rates in this age group.

Since this graph is not a representation over time, some assumptions about the data can be posited: Are younger voting groups more uncertain of their political orientation; or, is there an equalizing trend of political party affiliation among age groups?

Has your political orientation changed over time?
What could be some reasons for changes in political orientation?

Political Party Affiliation

This graph shows the total percent of registered voters by party affiliation in Sarasota County cities and communities. Some communities were not included when counts were very low.
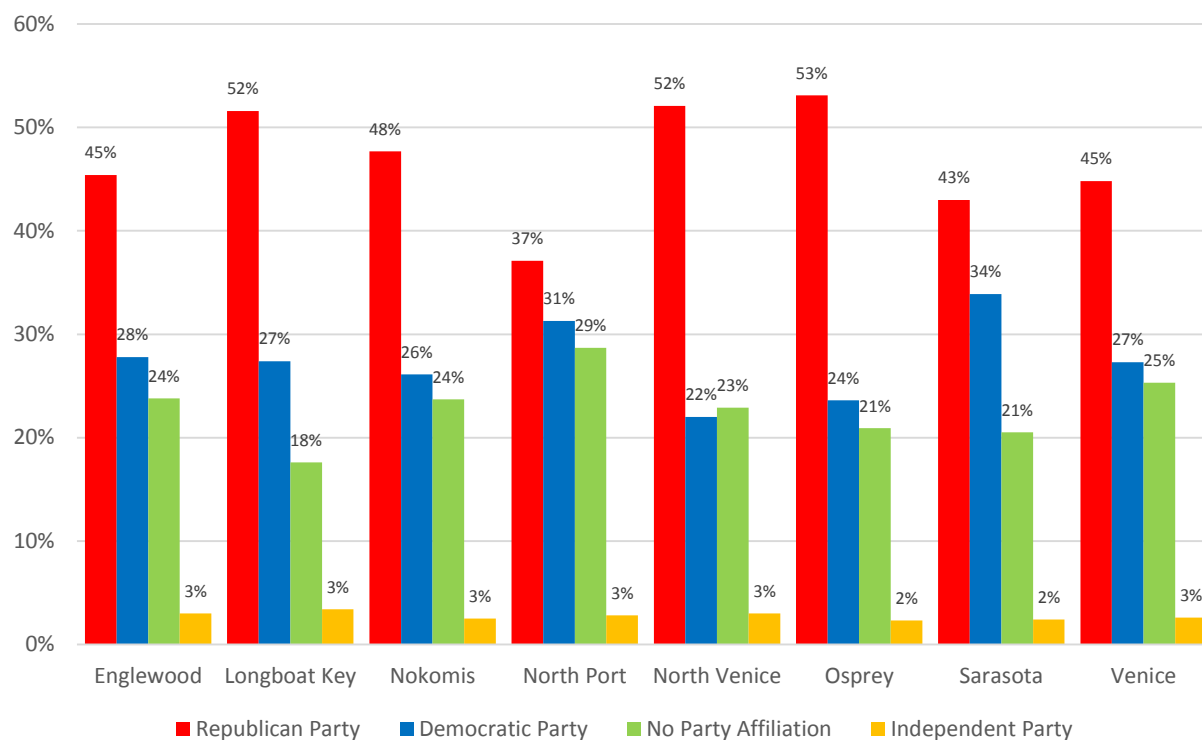

Figure 86: Sarasota County Supervisor of Elections

What is significant in this graph is the overall trend that every city shown has a higher rate of registered voters that are affiliated with the Republican Party. At the same time, every city has a similar rate of voters affiliated with the Independent Party – around 3%. The cities with the highest percentage of Republican-aligned voters are North Venice, Osprey and Longboat Key. The cities with the highest percentage of Democratic voters are Sarasota and North Port.

The cities with the highest discrepancies between Republican and Democratically aligned voters are North Venice and Osprey, while the cities with the least discrepancies are North Port and Sarasota. The City of North Port has one of the more equally distributed pool of voters among political parties. Thirty-seven percent of voters are Republican, 31% Democratic, and 28% have no party affiliation.

An interesting phenomenon to point out is the tendency for the percent of voters aligned as Democrats and the percent of voters with no party affiliation to be more similar than those voters aligned with the Republican Party.

Political Party Affiliation

The data looks at the percent of voters in select identified race/ethnic group that aligned with each of the major political parties.

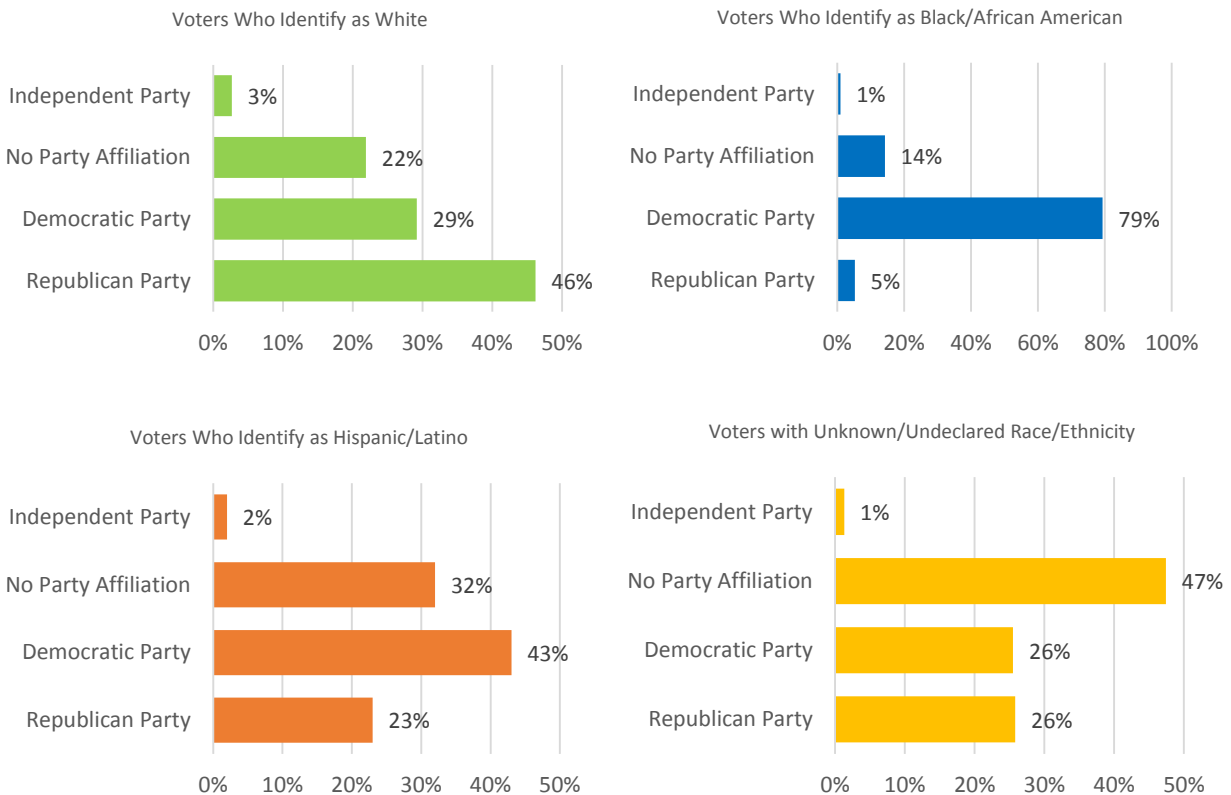### Voters Who Identify as White

Party	Percent
Independent Party	3%
No Party Affiliation	22%
Democratic Party	29%
Republican Party	46%

Voters Who Identify as Black/African American

Party	Percent
Independent Party	1%
No Party Affiliation	14%
Democratic Party	79%
Republican Party	5%

Voters Who Identify as Hispanic/Latino

Party	Percent
Independent Party	2%
No Party Affiliation	32%
Democratic Party	43%
Republican Party	23%

Voters with Unknown/Undeclared Race/Ethnicity

Party	Percent
Independent Party	1%
No Party Affiliation	47%
Democratic Party	26%
Republican Party	26%

Figure 87: Sarasota County Supervisor of Elections

The data shows that there is a very distinct difference in political party affiliation when analyzed for race/ethnicity. About 46% of the group of voters identifying as white are aligned with the Republican Party, while about a third are aligned with the Democratic Party. This is also the only group of *all* race groups that have a majority affiliation with the Republican Party.

Voters who identify as Black/African American have a 79% alignment rate with the Democratic Party, the largest party affiliation among *all* race groups.

About 43% of Hispanic/Latino identified voters in Sarasota County align with the Democratic Party, while slightly more than a third chose no party affiliation and nearly a quarter aligned with the Republican Party.

Almost half of voters with an undeclared race do not have a party affiliation, while a quarter are aligned with the Democratic Party and another quarter with the Republican Party.

What do you think accounts for differences in party affiliation based upon a voter's race/ethnicity?

Interested to see how Sarasota County's various political parties rank by voter's affiliation?
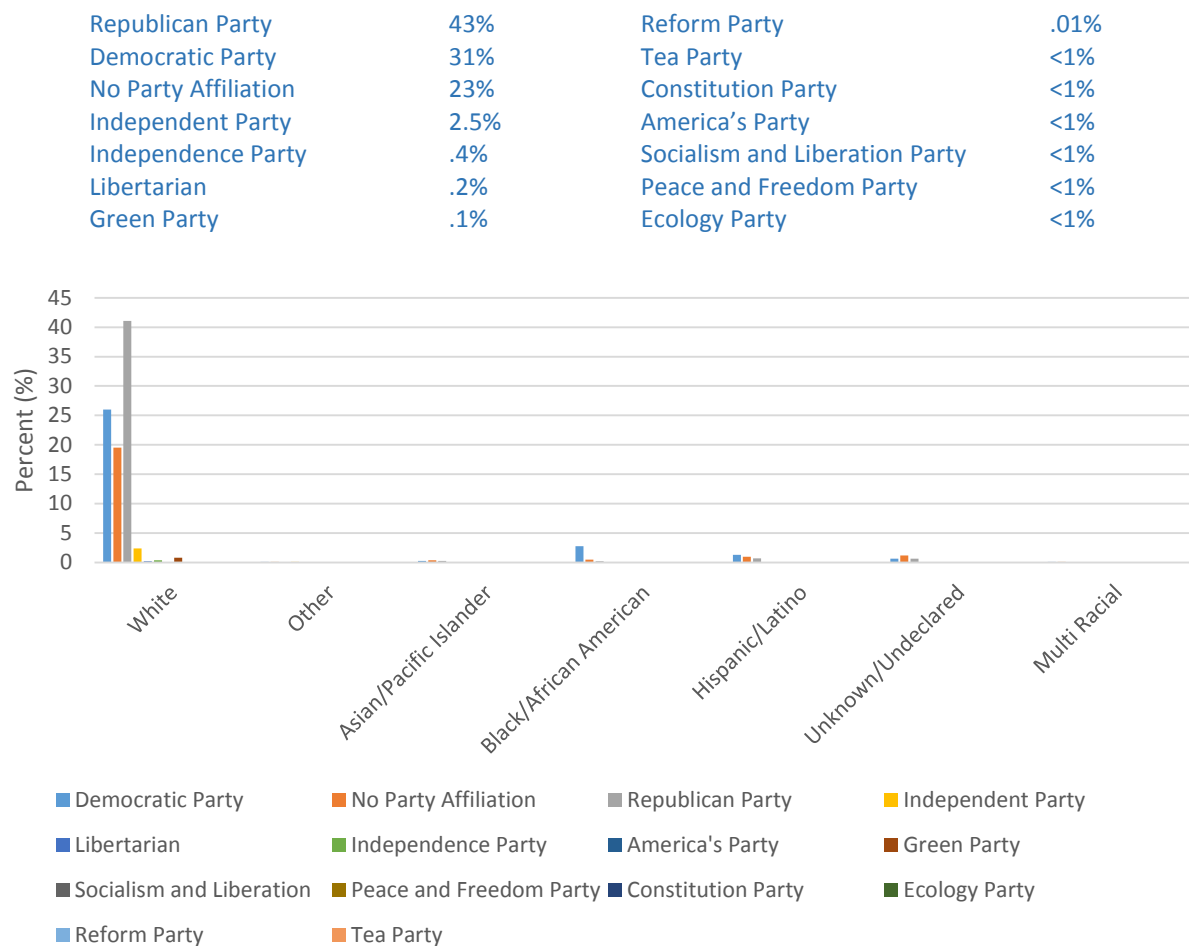
Republican Party	43%	Reform Party	.01%
Democratic Party	31%	Tea Party	<1%
No Party Affiliation	23%	Constitution Party	<1%
Independent Party	2.5%	America's Party	<1%
Independence Party	.4%	Socialism and Liberation Party	<1%
Libertarian	.2%	Peace and Freedom Party	<1%
Green Party	.1%	Ecology Party	<1%

Figure 88: Sarasota County Supervisor of Elections

A total of 43% of voters in Sarasota County are aligned with the Republic Party. Followed with Democratic voters as the next largest group, comprising 31% of the total voting population.

This chart shows all registered voters as a percent their identified race/ethnic group by party affiliation. Sarasota County has a total population of residents who largely identify as white. This graph shows us that voters who identify as white have a strength in numbers that is much greater than any other racial group. This can be seen in the skewed data above. The next largest population groups in Sarasota County are Black/African American and Hispanic/Latino.

The number of voters and size of voting groups are related to the local demographics. What is interesting are the subtle nuances within the data that show differences in voting behaviors. Such as, white voting groups holding a majority affiliation with the Republican Party and black/African American voters holding a vast majority affiliation with the Democratic Party. Previous data showed that, within voter affiliation with the Democratic Party, the majority identified as female.

How do you think population size and distribution affect voting outcomes?
What are some challenges to consider in this data?

Race & Geography

Racial Distribution, by Precinct

Racial Distribution, by Precinct
Sarasota County

This chart displays the percentage of registered voters of each voting precinct in Sarasota County by the voter's self-identified race/ethnicity.

The chart overwhelming shows a vast majority of white identified voters, with a few precincts showing greater concentrations of Black/African American race groups. Previous data in this domain has shown that almost 50% of white race groups are politically aligned with the Republican Party, while over 70% of Black/African American groups are aligned with the Democratic Party. At the same time, the majority of race groups other than white are aligned with the Democratic Party.

How can this population distribution affect voting outcomes?
What precinct is your voting precinct?
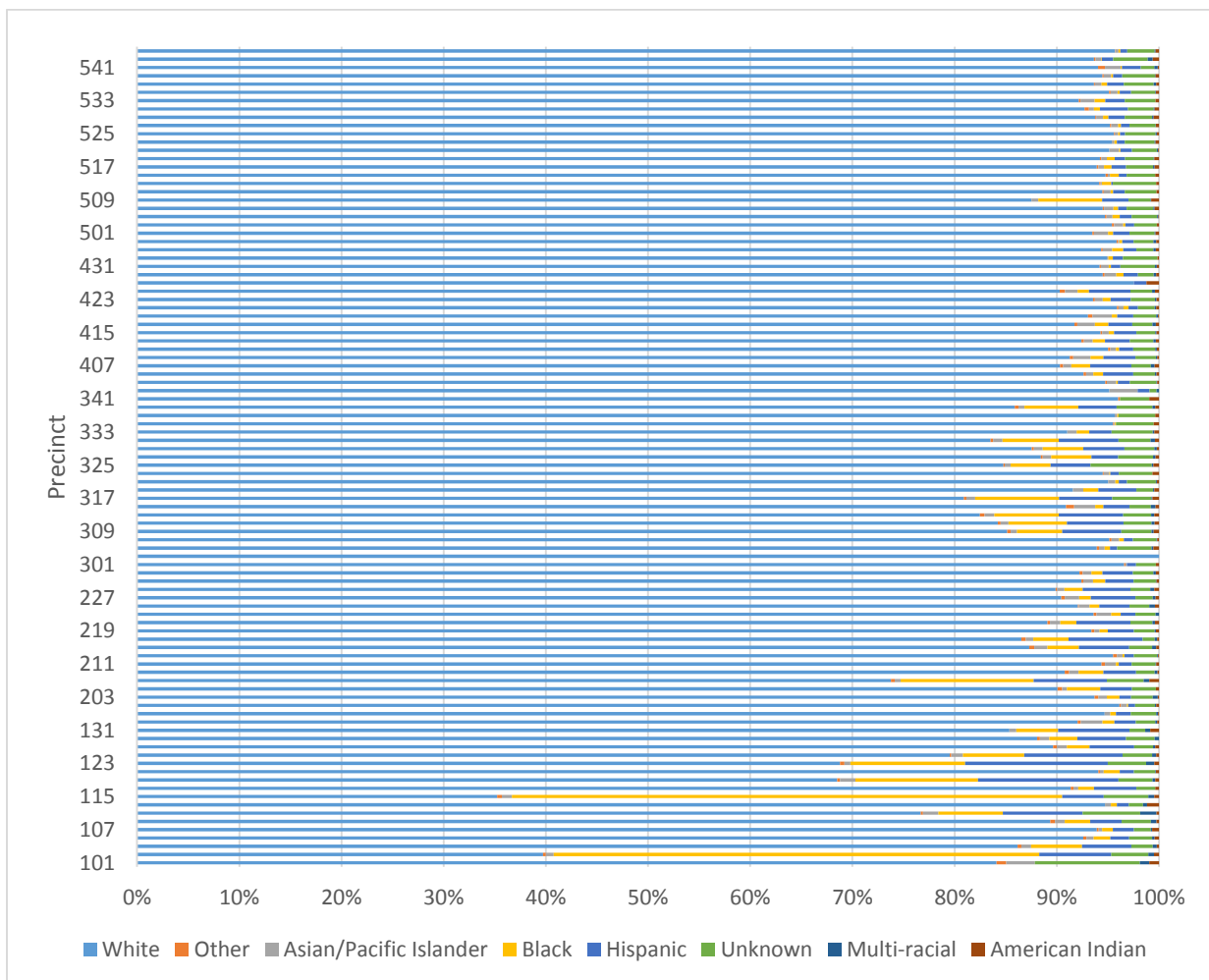
Figure 89: Sarasota County Clerk of Courts

The following graphs shows the age distribution of Sarasota County registered voters, by their identified race/ethnicity. The line represent the count of total individuals of that age by race/ethnicity. The second graph omits the white race group.

The primary differences that can be noted between the two graphs are the trends for Black/African American and Hispanic/Latino groups that have a peak count in age groups that are younger than the count for the white-identified race group. Minority race groups tend to have a more sustained count throughout the age groups that tend to decrease, while the white race group tends to have an upward sloping count as age increases.

How do you think these trends can be explained?
Are younger generations of minority race groups remaining in Sarasota County? Are older generations of the white race group entering Sarasota County?

(Excluding White)
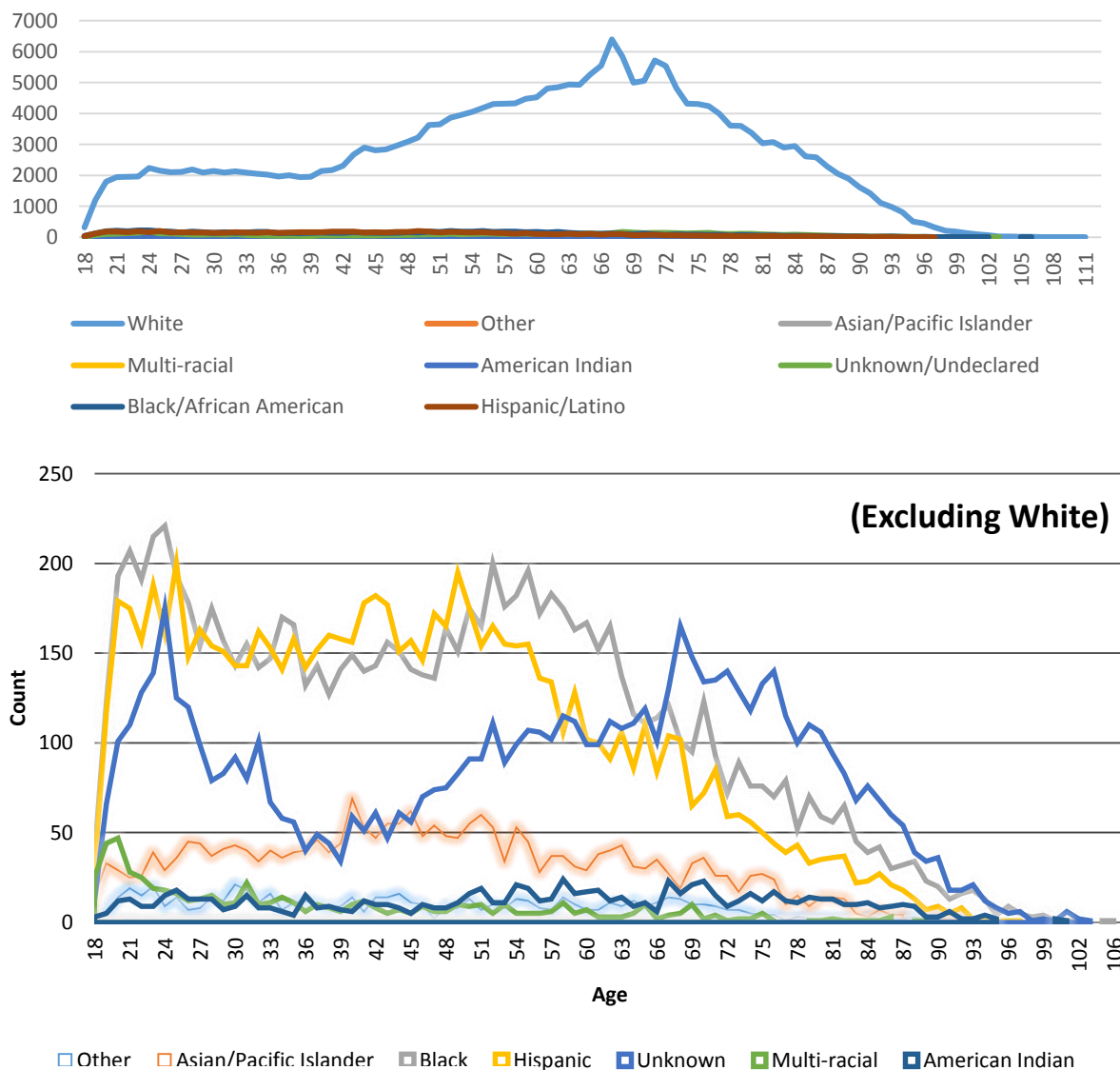
Figures 90 & 91: Sarasota County Supervisor of Elections

Voting Method

This graph shows the total number of registered voters by their voting method in the 2012 General Election. Again, the raw numbers show that voters in Sarasota County who identify as white are the majority voters – due to population size.
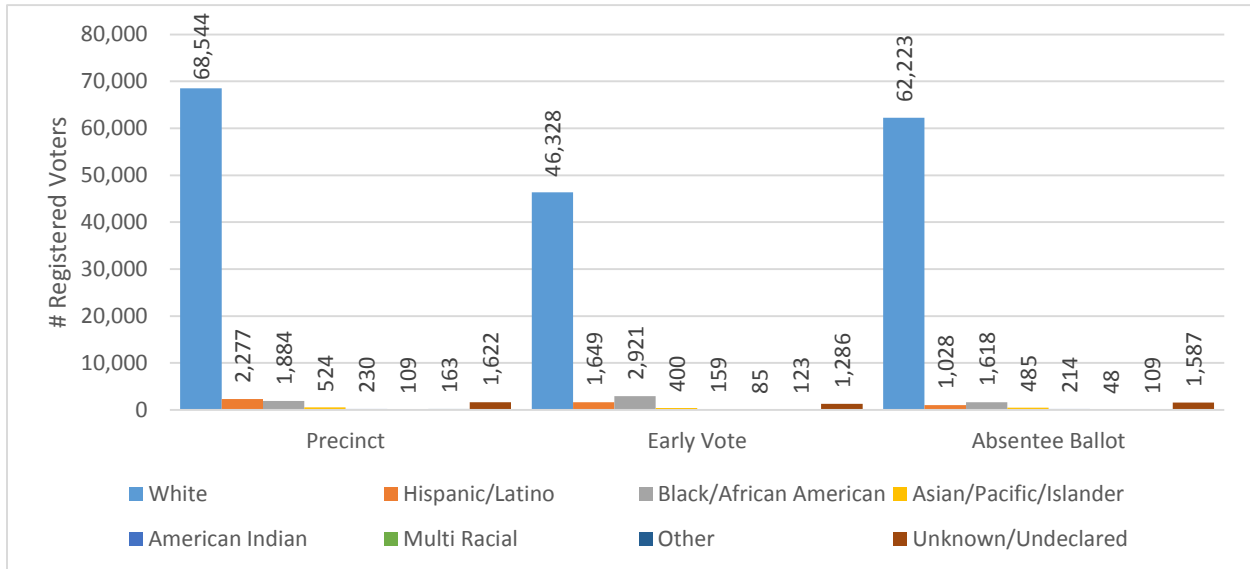
Figure 92: Sarasota County Supervisor of Elections

However, when the data is broken down further, it is seen that the preferred voting method for Sarasota County voters is at their precinct voting location. Overall, every race/ethnic group had the vast majority of voters travel to their precinct voting office to cast a vote, except for voters who identify as Black/African American. This group of voters had a higher number of voters choose an early vote.

The data below shows the percent of voters in each race/ethnic group by their voting method in the 2012 General Elections. [Figures 93-96]
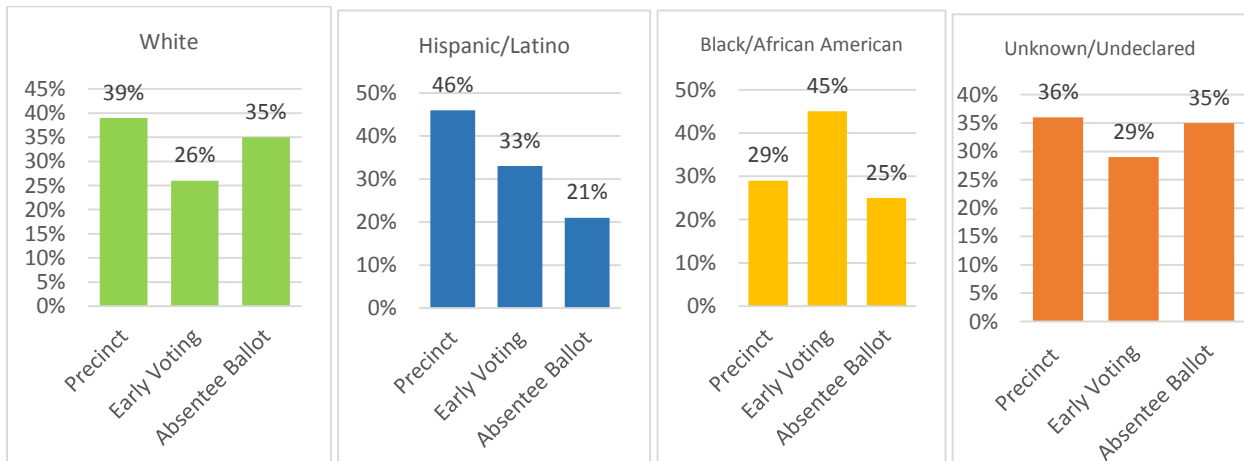
Voting Method

This pie chart shows the methods of voting used in the 2012 General Election and the distribution of Sarasota County residents' methods of voting in the last General Election.

While the slight majority of 39% utilized the traditional polls, a significant representation of 34% occurred through absentee ballot and a substantial 27% chose to vote before November 5.
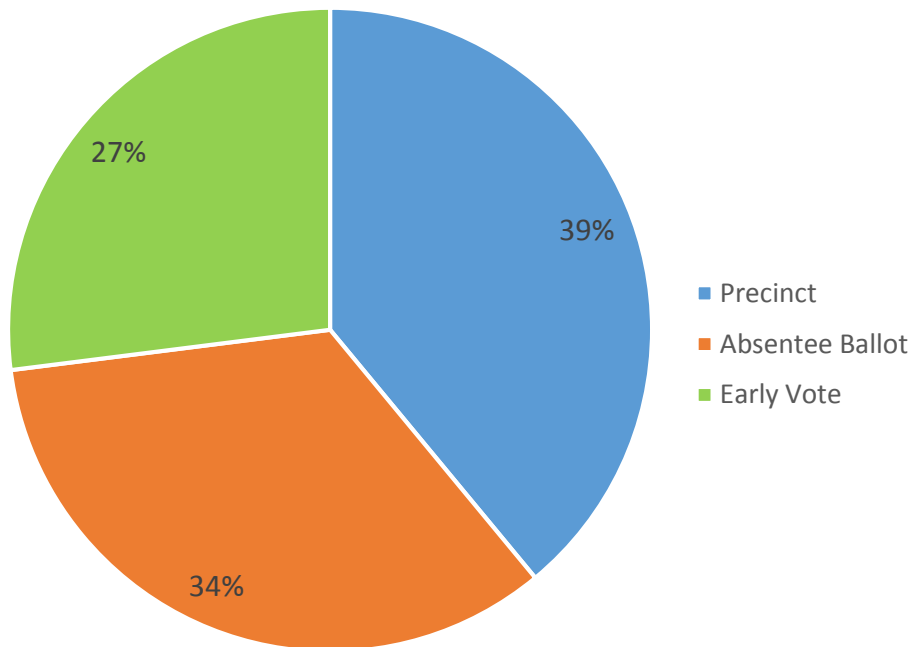
Figure 97: Sarasota County Supervisor of Elections

This chart indicates the popularity of early voting, and shows how having options may influence civic participation.

Voter Turnout

Sarasota County

This graph shows the total number of voters registered in Sarasota County by year, as well as the total number of voters who cast a vote in those elections from 2002 to 2012. The graph to the right shows the percent of voter turnout.

Voter Turnout in General Elections

The total number of registered voters has increased every year from 231,000 in 2002 to 277,000 in 2012. The highest voter turnout since 2002 occurred in the 2004 general elections, where 82% of registered voters cast a vote. There is a very distinct voter turnout pattern as voter turnout vacillate between 60% and 80% every four years.
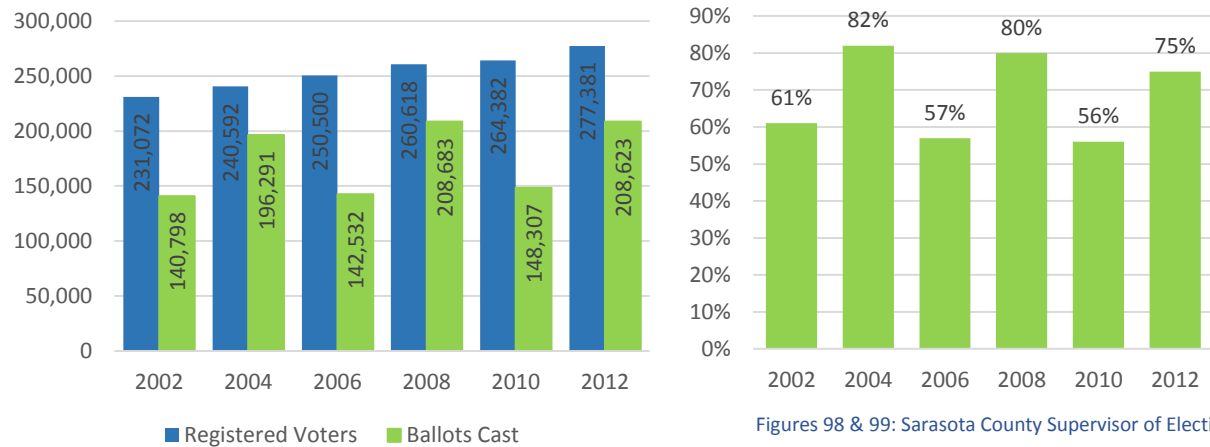
Figures 98 & 99: Sarasota County Supervisor of Elections

Voter Turnout in Primary Elections

The total number of registered voters for the primary elections have increased from 228,400 in 2002 to 270,000 in 2012. However, voter turnout, as shown by the graph to the right, has decreased from 2002 to 2012. The highest voter turnout was in 2002 with a total of 30% of registered voters casting a ballot in the primary elections. The most recent year available, 2012, only saw about 16% of registered voters casting a ballot.
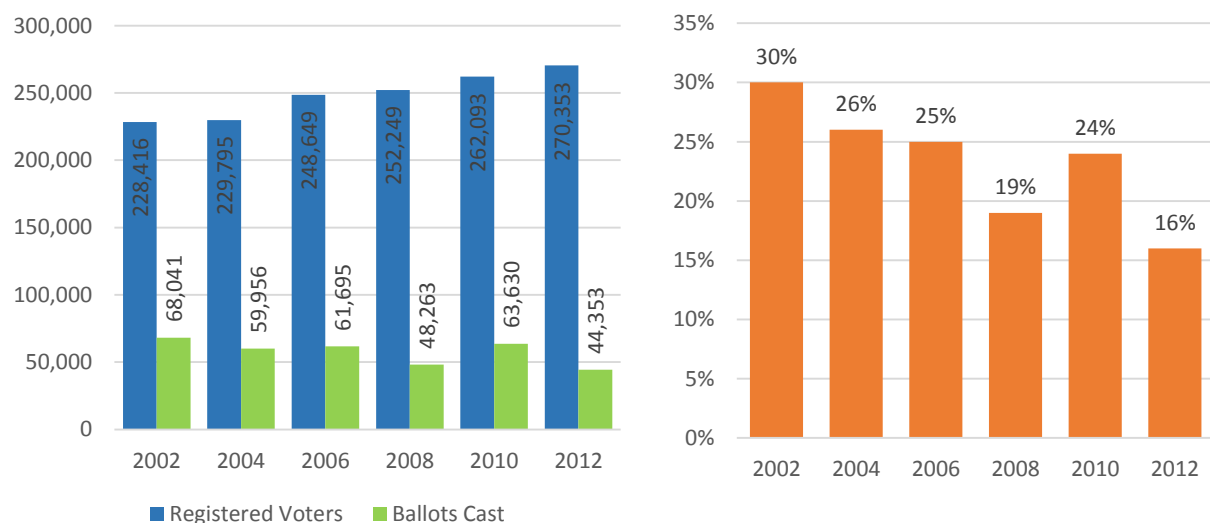
Figures 100 & 101: Sarasota County Supervisor of Elections

# Voter Turnout

Voter Turnout, by Age

The data shows the age distribution of the voters who cast a vote in the 2012 General Elections in Sarasota County. Of the voting groups, those voters aged 66 or above were the largest voting group, followed by voters aged 36-55 which comprised 25% of the total votes. The smallest voting groups fell in the ages 18-35.
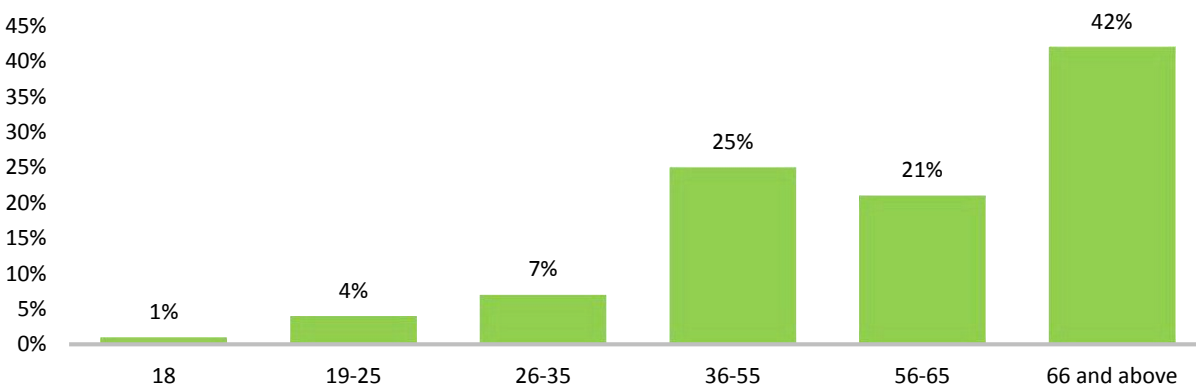
Voter Turnout, by Gender

This graph shows voter turnout at the 2012 General Election in Sarasota County. This graph breaks the data down by voter-identified gender.

About 77.6% of all voters in Sarasota County who identified as female voted in the 2012 General Election. Of all voters identified as male, 74.7% voted in the 2012 General Election. The group of voters who identified as unknown/undeclared had the greatest turnout - 98.3% at the 2012 General Election.
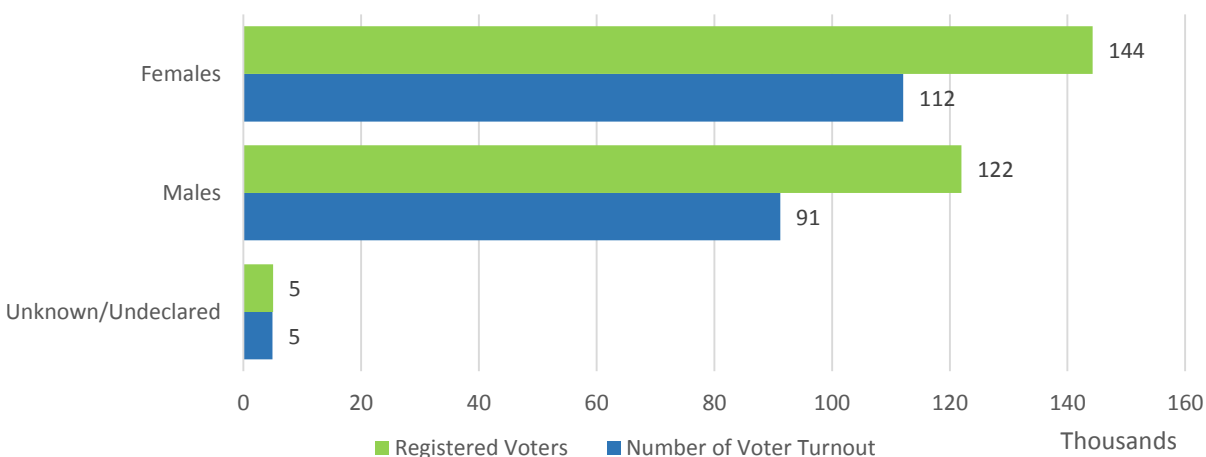
Figures 102 + 103: Sarasota County Supervisor of Elections

What do these numbers tell you about voting behavior? How can this affect voting outcomes?

Libraries

This section of the Civic Participation domain of well-being looks at different data points to discover the involvement of Sarasota County residents within the County library system. Libraries have historically been a source of knowledge and information, a networked hub in the community, and a space in which community meetings and discourse can be conducted. Libraries are objective facilitators and catalysts for resident participation and involvement in their greater communities. The degree to which residents are involved with their libraries can be a telling aspect of overall resident civic participation.

Percent of Residents with Library Cards
Sarasota County

This indicator shows the percent of Sarasota County and Florida State residents that have public library cards**.**
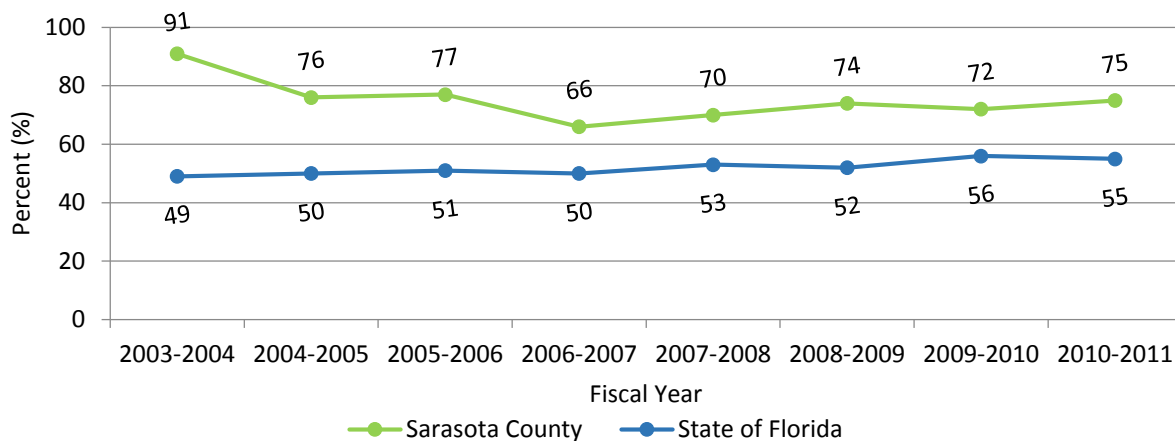

Figure 104: Department of State, Division of Library and Information Services

The data is clear in showing that Sarasota County has consistently had a higher percentage of residents with public library cards than the average for the State of Florida. While the percentage in Sarasota County dropped from 91% in Fiscal Year 2003/4 to a low of 66% in Fiscal Year 2006/7, the ratio has been increasing steadily to 75% in Fiscal Year 2010/11, the most recent data available. The State of Florida has seen a steady 6% increase between Fiscal Year 2003/4 to Fiscal Year 2010/11, from 49% to 55% of residents holding library cards.

In 2013, Sarasota County Public Libraries issued about 20,000 new library cards.

(Source: Sarasota County Public Libraries, '2013 at a Glance')

There is a wealth of wisdom and knowledge stored in our public libraries!
Do you hold a library card? How often do you go to the library?

Libraries

This data shows the annual average number of library visits per person for Sarasota County, the State of Florida, and the nation as a whole. National data for the 2010/11 and 2011/12 fiscal years were not yet available for this report.
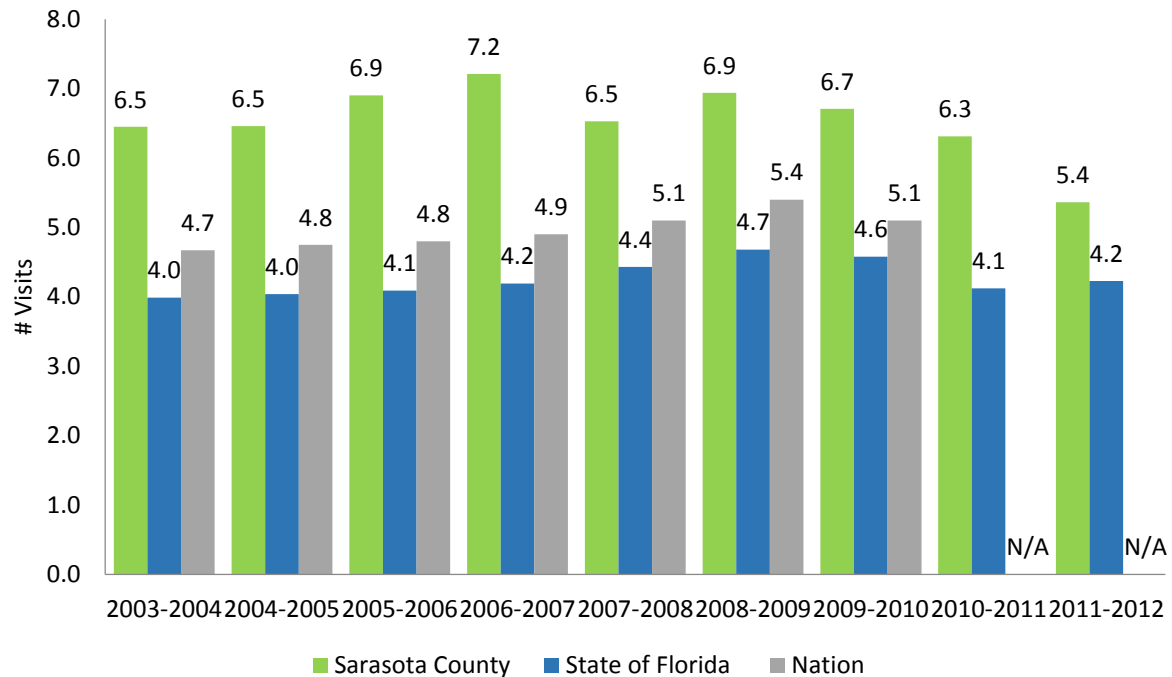

Figure 105: Department of State, Division of Library and Information Services

According to the reported data, Sarasota County residents are more inclined to visit their local libraries than the average for the state and nation. Sarasota County has maintained a steady average between 6 and 7 visits per person since 2003/4, although the average dropped slightly to 5 visits in the most recent year collected. The State of Florida has an average library visits per capita that has been consistently less than the national average. The national average remains steady at about 5 visits per person, while the Florida state average is persistent at about 4 visits.

In 2013, county libraries saw a total of almost 2 million people visiting their shelves over the year, and provided meeting space for 355 community groups. Sarasota County libraries also host many programs and special events, including:

2,118 children's program that had an attendance of almost 57,000 children.

782 teen programs that had a total attendance of about 12,614 teens and youth.

1,422 adult programs that had just over 33,000 adult participants.

Additionally, Sarasota County libraries hosted 68 community events in 2013 that pulled in a total of 34,203 people to attend.

Source: Sarasota County Public Libraries, '2013 At A Glance'

Libraries

This indicator shows the percent of borrowers in libraries that are residents of the county in which they hold library cards. The data compares Sarasota County and the State of Florida.
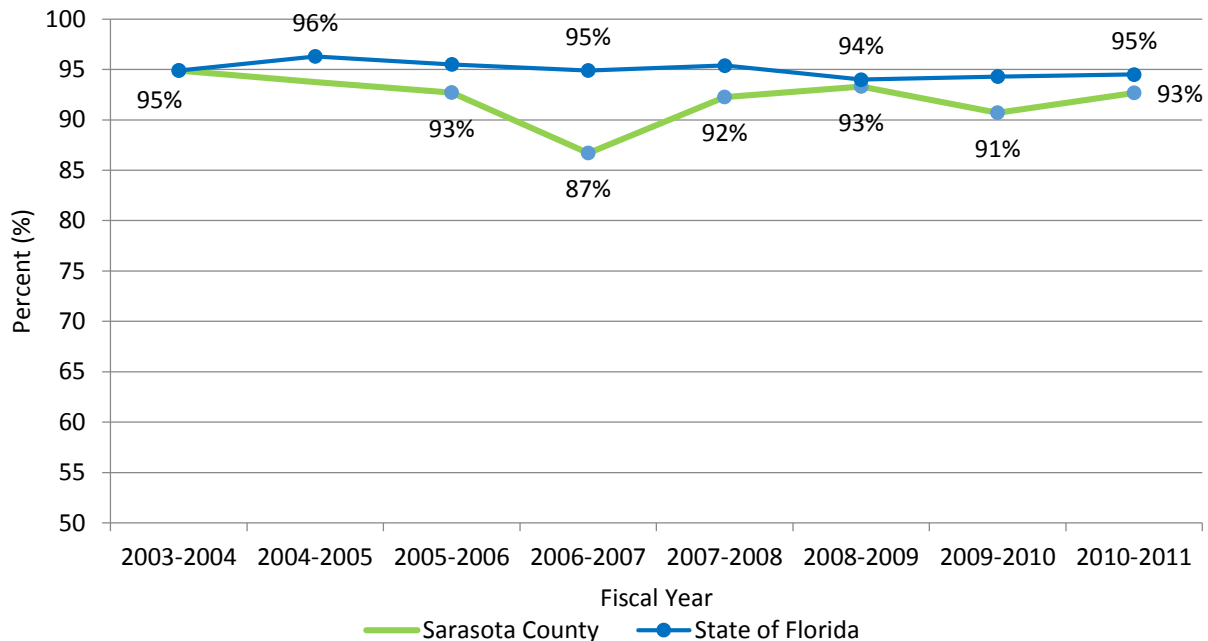

Figure 106: Department of State, Division of Library and Information Services

On average, the percentage of people who borrow from libraries in the State of Florida that are also residents is consistently higher than those borrowers in Sarasota County libraries. In the most recent year available, about 95% of borrowers in the state were residents while 93% in Sarasota County libraries were residents. This data has remained somewhat steady for the state, keeping an average of around 95% since Fiscal Year 2003/4.

In Sarasota County, the average seems to have remained steady around 93% in the same time period. However, the county saw an outlying decrease in the percentage of library borrowers who are residents in Fiscal Year 2006/7 when the rate dropped from 93% to 87%, but then increasing again to 92% in the Fiscal Year 2007/8. Overall, Sarasota County seems to face a slight decrease in the percentage of borrowers who are also residents in the county.

Why do you think Sarasota County has a slightly lower percentage of borrowers who are residents?

Libraries

This graph shows the total circulation of all Sarasota County public libraries. It is accompanied by a linear trend line to show long term trends in the data.
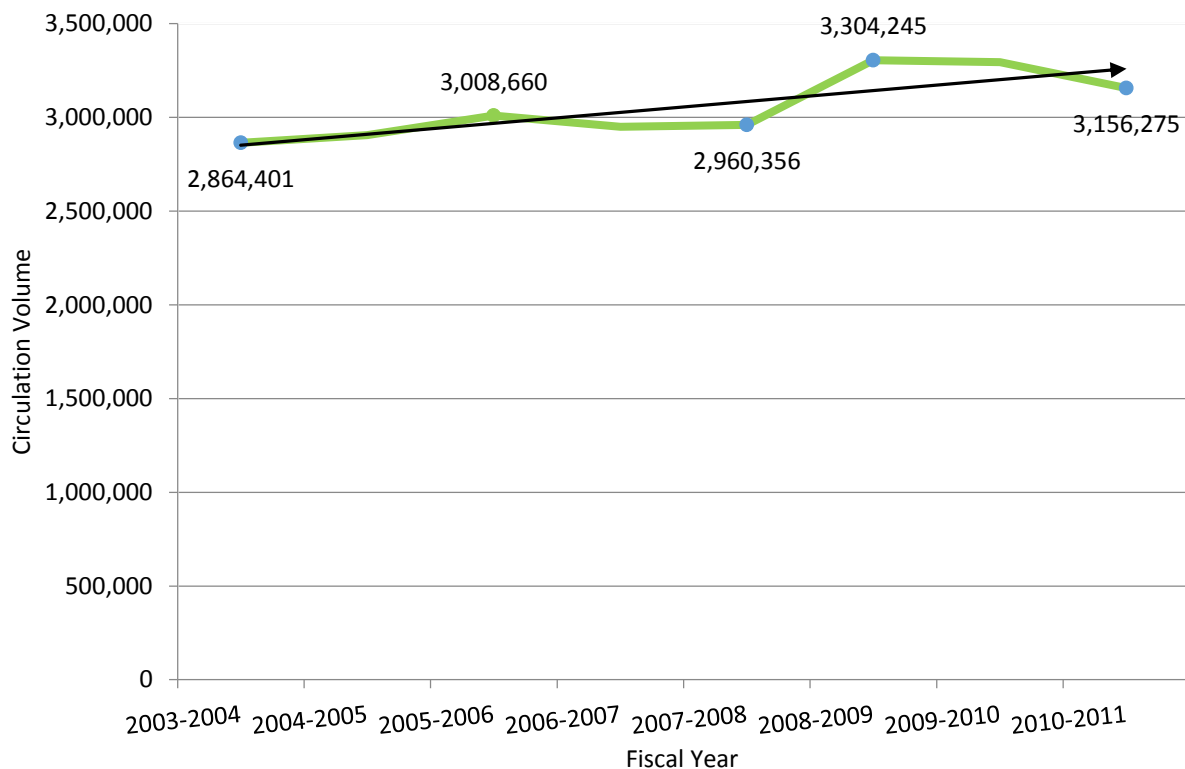

Figure 107: Department of State, Division of Library and Information Services

Sarasota County Public Libraries have seen an overall increase in total circulation since FY 2003/4. In the most recent data available, FY 2010/11, total circulation was almost 3.2 million. This is a decrease from a somewhat steady peak in circulation in FY 2008/9 and FY 2009/10 where about 3.3 million items were circulated annually. This peak stemmed from a total circulation of about 2.96 million in FY 2007/8.

In 2013, Sarasota County Public Libraries circulated over 3 million items (3,003,849).

(Source: Sarasota County Public Libraries, '2013 at a Glance')

Libraries

Circulation per Total Borrowers

This data shows the average circulation per borrower at public libraries in Sarasota County and the State of Florida.
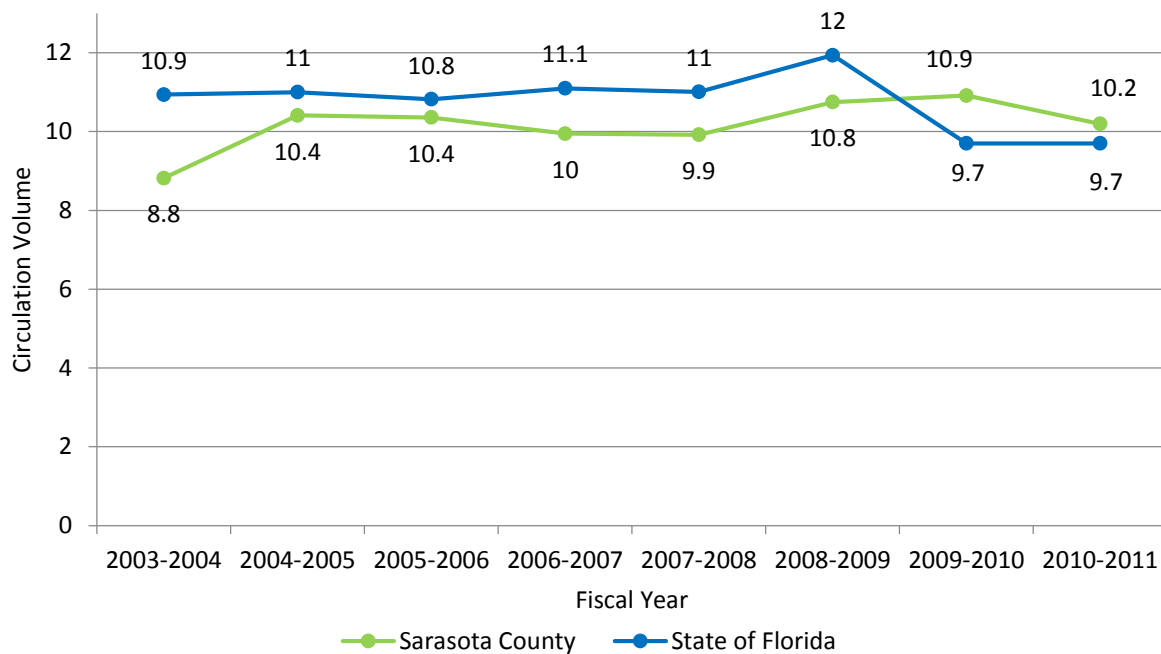

Figure 108: Department of State, Division of Library and Information Services

In the most recent data available, FY 2010/11, Sarasota County's circulation per borrower averaged at about 10.2, while the State of Florida had a slightly lower average of about 9.7. Prior to FY 2009/10, the state had a consistently higher average circulation per total borrower than Sarasota County. In FY 2009/10, Florida's circulation rates dropped from a peak of 11.9 to a trough of 9.7 per borrower.

Sarasota County, on the other hand, saw an overall increase in circulation rates per borrower in FY 2003/4 where the average remained somewhat steady and increased again after FY 2007/8 to 10.9 per borrower in FY 2009/10. The current rate in Sarasota County is slightly decreasing in overall circulation per borrower from previous years.

What do you think explains the increase in circulation between 2008 and 2010 in Sarasota County?

Libraries

Library Operating Expenditures, per Capita
Sarasota County

This indicator shows the average operating expenditures per person for public libraries. The data compares Sarasota County, the State of Florida, as well as the national average. National data for the 2010/11 and 2011/12 fiscal years were not yet available while producing this report.
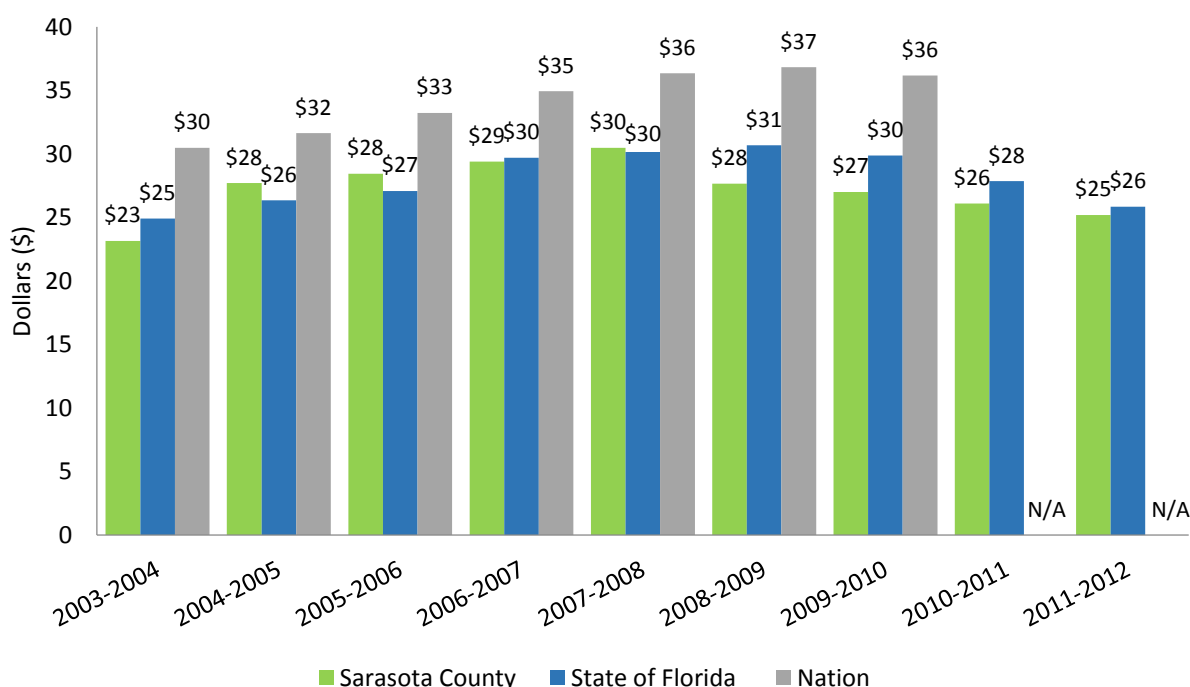

Figure 109: Department of State, Division of Library and Information

The national average of library operating expenditures per capita has been consistently higher than expenditures in both Sarasota County and the State of Florida. Sarasota County's average peaked at about $30 per person for the fiscal year 2007/8. Since then, the average expenditure has steadily declined to about $25 per capita in 2011/12. The State of Florida's per capita library operating expenditures has been steadily higher than that of Sarasota County since 2008/9, although previous years do not show this same trend.

Sarasota County's library systems may be under the state and national average on expenditure per capita, but it was recognized and awarded as the **2012 Library of the Year** by the Florida Library Association (FLA). Libraries are awarded for "outstanding community service, creative and innovative programming, and strong leadership".

(Source: tblc.org)

Volunteerism

Total Volunteers Registered & Volunteer Hours
Sarasota County

The following graph looks at the total number of registered volunteers in Sarasota County in 2012 and 2013. The data shows the total number of adult volunteers and youth volunteers. This data was obtained from Volunteer Community Connections.
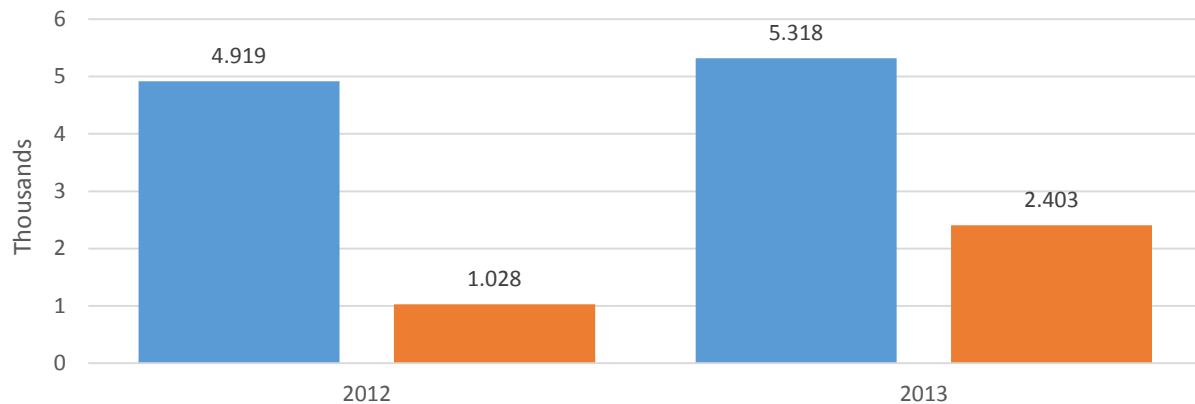

Figure 110: Volunteer Community Connections

According to the reported data, the total number of volunteers increased from 2012 to 2013. The number of adult volunteers increased by 8% from 4,919 volunteers to 5,318. The total number of registered youth volunteers more than doubled from 2012 to 2013, rising from just over 1,000 volunteers to 2,403 youth volunteers.

The chart below shows the number of reported volunteer hours for 2012 and 2013. The data for youth volunteer hours in 2013 was not available. The data shows that there was a small decrease in adult volunteer hours from 2012 to 2013, despite an increase in registered volunteers.
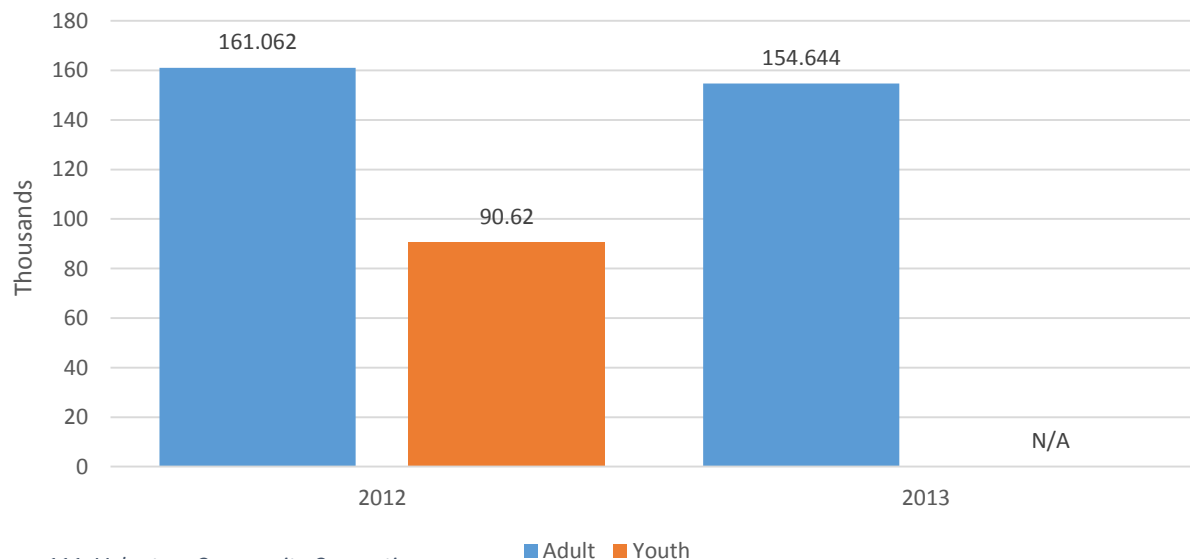

Figure 111: Volunteer Community Connections

Now that you have reviewed the full set of indicators for the civic participation domain of well-being, which indicators do you find most significant?

This domain of well-being considers three different aspects of civic participation in Sarasota County. The data takes an in depth look at the dynamics that registered voters in Sarasota County present in the voting process. This domain includes information on the library system in the county and the extent to which residents are involved with their public libraries. Finally, some numbers of volunteerism are gauged to consider how engaged residents are with their community through volunteered time.

Let's cover some of the highlights of the three section and consider some of the implications:

VOTING
~270,000 registered voters

Largest voting age group___

Ages 58-67	Ages 68-77
19% of total voters	*18% of total voters*

RACE__

White Voters

89% of total voters…

…46% of which are Republican
…29% of which are Democrat

Black/African American Voters

4% of total voters…

…79% of which are Democrat
…14% of which are not affiliated

Hispanic/Latino Voters

4% of total voters…

…43% if which are Democrat
…32% of which are not affiliated
…23% of which are Republican

GENDER__

Female

53.02% of total voters…

…41% of which are Republican
…35% of which are Democrat

Male

45.13% of total voters…

…46% of which are Republican
…27% of which are Democrat

Unknown/Undeclared Gender

1.85% of total voters…

…49% of which are not affiliated

This section has also shown that political party affiliation tends to be more evenly distributed between ages in voters aged 18-36, after which party affiliation becomes more skewed.

This section also provided data that showed the vast majority of voting precincts in Sarasota County are predominantly inhabited by self-identified white voters.

What did you notice about the voting data that should be brought to light?

Do you know where your voting precinct office is located?

Go to www.sarasotavotes.com

Click on the 'Precinct Finder'

This handy tool allows you to enter your address and search for your local voting office.

POSITIVE TRENDS

The data presented in the library section of this domain showed many positive trends. Using libraries as a hub for knowledge and information, a network for community outreach, and an objective location for community conversation, libraries are a foundation for civic participation.

- Although the average number of library visits each resident takes to the library every year has been declining since 2006/07, Sarasota County has consistently had the highest average number of visits when compared to the state or the nation!

- The Sarasota County library system is an award winning public institution that makes efficient use of operating expenditures. Sarasota County libraries have a lower annual average operating expense per resident than the state and the nation.

- Sarasota County public libraries issued about 20,000 new library cards in 2013!

- About 93% of library borrowers in Sarasota County are also residents!

- Sarasota County libraries circulate over 3 million items a year!

We encourage your own analysis of these indicators. Our intent is to spark conversation about issues you see in the data and to inspire action that comes from our community.

What indicators did we not include that would best show the overall health of Sarasota County?
Please let us know!

About Our Sources

Sarasota County Supervisor of Elections
www.sarasotavotes.com

The Sarasota County Supervisor of Elections is responsible for administering and overseeing all elections in Sarasota County at the district, municipal, county, state and federal levels. The Supervisor of Elections is also responsible for providing voter services, ensuring voter education, and working with new and current political candidates, committees and parties.

Division of Library and Information Services
Department of State
dlis.dos.state.fl.us

The Division of Library and Information Services is an agency under the Department of State and is assigned as the primary information and resource provider to all state agencies, including the Florida Legislature. In addition to information resources, this division provides the framework for library programs, archives documented history, and aids in coordination and funding for libraries across the state of Florida. This division also works to provide information and database access to citizens, local libraries, government entities and archivists.

Volunteer Community Connections
connectingvolunteers.org

Volunteer Community Connections (VCC) is the Sarasota County affiliate of the Hands on Network – a nationwide nonprofit organization dedicated to creating and managing volunteer networks and organizations to strengthen community. VCC partners with schools, clubs, and other nonprofit organization for group-based volunteer engagement in the local community. VCC also manages volunteers in times of disaster and for disaster relief work, and recruits for the Medical Reserve Corp. – a volunteer program that trains medical and non-medical professional volunteers to assist emergency services and public health officials in times of disaster or community emergencies.

BUILT

Domain of Well-being:
Built Environment & Transportation

The built environment of any town, city, community or county is a vital aspect of overall well-being. The built environment is, essentially, the environment as changed and managed by people and society. The built environment affects housing, infrastructure such as sewage, water and electricity, transportation corridors, supply networks, and consumption nodes. The built environment can be managed through planning processes and land use management. It can also be a product of uncontrolled development or suburban sprawl.

With so many different facets, it becomes difficult to pin point just which indicators would be most useful to gauge the overall well-being of the Sarasota County built environment. We relied on resident participant interests during our High Tech High Touch workshops in 2013. Sarasota County residents were interested in housing, housing occupancy and alternative forms of transportation. Transportation was a hot topic during our High Tech High Touch Workshops and resident participants were very curious to see the means of transportation most used in Sarasota County.

Transportation and the built environment are directly related. The means we use to travel is dependent on access and efficiency. We cannot walk or bike to the grocery store if there are no sidewalks or bike lanes – or if it is several miles away. We cannot choose to use public transportation if the nearest bus stop is inaccessible or the bus route does not go near our destination. Therefore, we might resort to driving a car because it is most practical and efficient, given the layout of our communities.

Using the indicators in this domain of well-being, we can:

➔ Determine current trends in housing development and availability of housing stock.
➔ Gauge most used modes of transportation for Sarasota County residents.
➔ Evaluate transportation resources and how they are being used.

Keep an eye open for data points that can complement the data we have included in this edition of the Community Report Card. How can we provide a more accurate portrayal of the relationship between built environment and transportation?

Management of the built environment is important for several reasons:

1. Efficiency of resources such as water, sewage, and electricity can be maintained when those internal infrastructures grow at the same pace of urban or suburban development.
2. Efficiency of public safety resources are sustained when development does not outpace the reach and capacity of police, firefighters, ambulances, hospitals and clinics.
3. Environmental sustainability is not threatened by haphazard development or unnecessary construction on previously undeveloped land.
4. Ecosystems are protected and animal habitats are kept connected to support native species.
5. Quality of life can be improved through planning to *concentrate* resident needs rather than sprawled and disconnected nodes of consumption and housing units.
6. Reliance on private use of automobiles as a primary means of transportation can be reduced by reducing distance between residence, work place and recreation/consumption.

Sarasota County has a comprehensive plan that outlines land and resource use. In 2002, the county adopted the Sarasota 2050 plan which is a comprehensive plan that is used in conjunction with the Comprehensive Land Use Map.

Sarasota 2050

Though not a mandated plan of action, the 2050 Plan is an incentive based program for continued growth and economic development in Sarasota County, while preserving natural, cultural and physical resources to improve overall livability. The Plan works around six different Resource Management Areas which revolve around three primary principles: 1) open space that acts to keep natural habitats interconnected, preserve agricultural lands and ranch lands, 2) an urban design form called New Urbanism that promotes compact development to create walkable and connected communities with mixed housing types and uses, and 3) fiscal neutrality that works to prevent development that will place financial burdens on current residents. These principles work to create a more sustainable and livable Sarasota County.

The six Resource Management Areas are: Agricultural Reserves, Rural Heritage and Estates, Greenways, Villages and Open Space, Economic Development, and Urban/Suburban development.

To learn more about Sarasota 2050, visit the county website: www.scgov.net

How do you define a sustainable community?
How important is a sustainable community to you?
How can Sarasota County improve to promote a more sustainable community?

Domain of Well-being:
BUILT ENVIRONMENT

The Indicators Included

Key Findings

✓ Sarasota County has had a persistently higher rate of housing vacancy than the average vacancy rate in the State of Florida. In 2012, about **24% of housing units** in Sarasota County were **vacant**.

✓ The housing density – housing units per square mile – has been slowly increasing over the years. In 2012, there were about **411 housing units per square mile** – 311 of which were occupied.

✓ In 2012, almost 60% of the total housing stock was single family, detached homes.

✓ Since 2008, the total number of new privately-owned residential dwellings permitted by Sarasota County was at its highest in 2012. The peak in new residential dwellings permitted was in 2005, almost seven times greater than current rates.

✓ Sarasota County has a greater population than both the State of Florida and the nation as a whole that drives alone to work – about 82% - as opposed to carpooling, using public transportation, or walking.

✓ Less than one percent of Sarasota County residents use public transportation as a means of travel to work, compared to about 5% of the total US population.

✓ Sarasota County residents drive on average about 28 miles a day.

✓ There has been a 78% increase in the annual number of passenger trips on Sarasota County Area Transportation (SCAT) buses since 2002.

In what ways do you think the built environment can be altered to affect your daily life?

How much do you think the built environment affects your mode of transportation?

Population

Population Density
Sarasota County

This graph shows the population density of Sarasota County; the average number of people per square mile. It was derived by dividing the total population by the average land area of Sarasota County.

Sarasota County's estimated total population: ~ 390,429
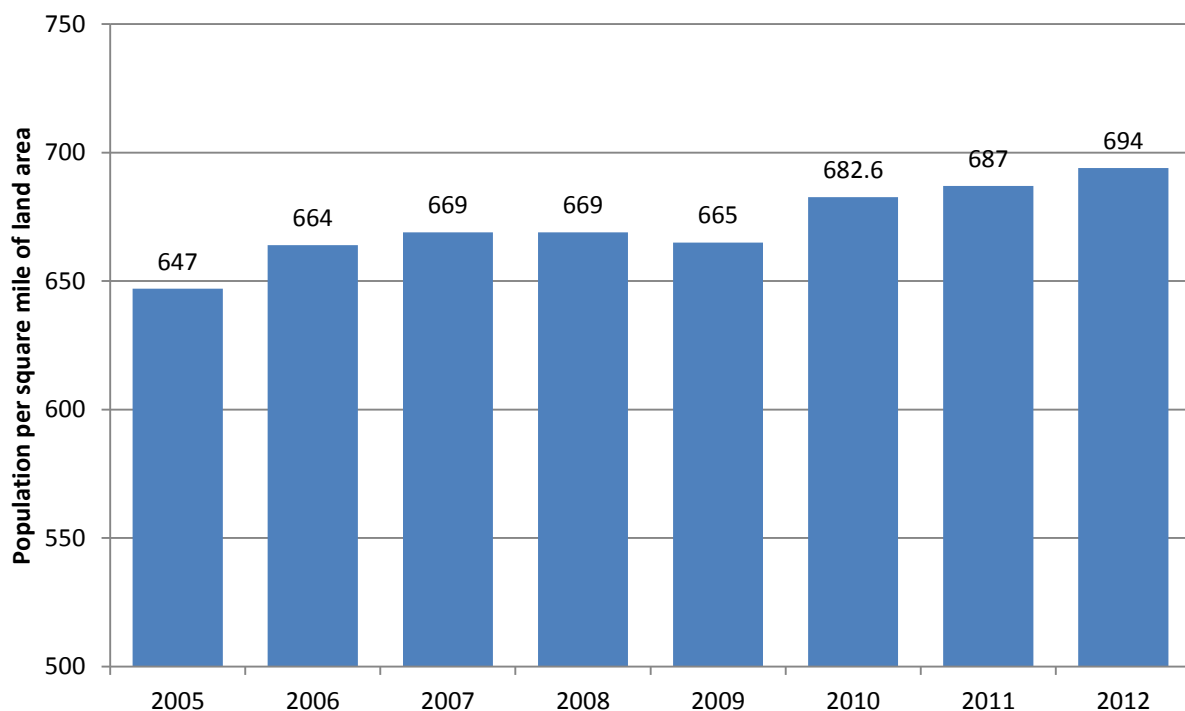

Figure 112: U.S. Census Bureau

There has been a 7.3% increase in population density in Sarasota County since 2005, reaching nearly 700 people per square mile in 2012. Although there was a slight drop in the increasing rate in 2009, trends of an increasing population density can be expected for future years. When the acreage of protected lands is considered, the density of the developed areas of the county is actually greater.

USA.com ranks Sarasota County one of the top ten most densely populated counties in the State of Florida.

Housing

This graph shows the total housing density in Sarasota County; the number of housing units per square mile in the county. It also shows the occupied housing density; the number of occupied housing units per square mile of Sarasota County. These values were calculated by dividing the total and occupied housing units by the average land area of Sarasota County.

Sarasota County Land Area: 555.9 square miles (355,756.8 acres)
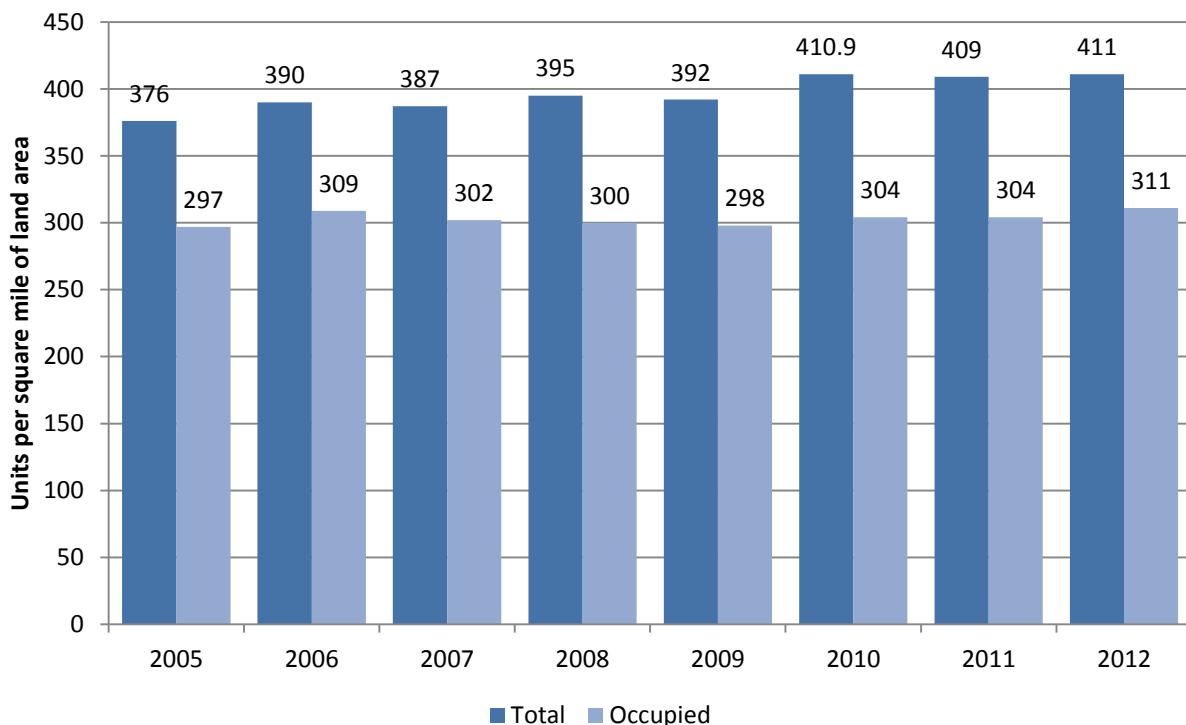**Designated Agricultural Land: 102,890 acres (160.8 square miles)**

Figure 113: U.S Census Bureau Agricultural Land: Sarasota County Property Appraiser

Both the total and occupied housing density show an increasing trend since 2005. The total housing capacity increased by about 9% over the seven years between 2005 and 2012. The latest figures show that there are about 411 housing units per square mile in Sarasota County. The density of occupied housing units increased by only 4% in that same time period, estimating about 311 occupied housing units per square mile. The numbers suggest that there are more housing units becoming available each year, but at a greater rate than the rate at which people are occupying them.

Housing

What is a housing unit?

As defined by the U.S. Census Bureau: "A **housing unit** is a house, an apartment, a mobile home, a group of rooms, or a single room that is occupied (or if vacant, is intended for occupancy) as separate living quarters. Separate living quarters are those in which the occupants live and eat separately from any other persons in the building and which have direct access from the outside of the building or through a common hall."

Housing Units: % Vacant

The rate of vacancy measures the ratio of housing units that are, at any point in time, *not* inhabited by residents. It shows the percent of available housing stock that is vacant and not utilized.

Compared to state averages, Sarasota County has a persistently higher vacancy rate of the available housing stock. The percentage of vacant housing has generally increased since 2005, although 2012 saw a slight decrease from the previous year. Overall, both Sarasota County and the State of Florida are seeing trending increases in housing vacancy. In 2012, just under a quarter of all available housing stock in Sarasota County was vacant, compared to a fifth of housing units in the state.
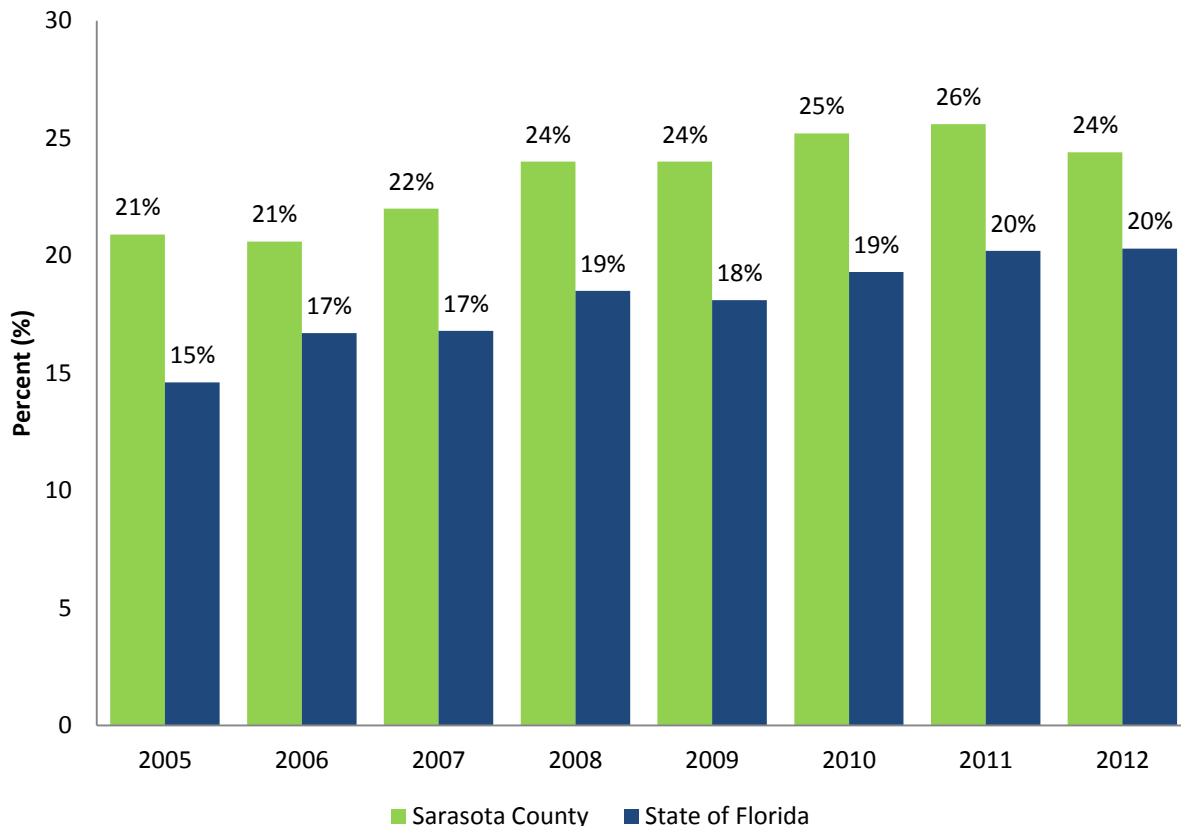

Figure 114: U.S Census

Housing

This graph shows the total available housing units available by the year in which the housing units were constructed. Each bar represents the percentage of home that was constructed in each time period for both Sarasota County and the State of Florida.

This bar graph shows the total percent of all homes constructed in Sarasota County and Florida (up to 2009) broken down by the time period in which they were built. The State of Florida averaged less development of homes in the fifties, sixties, and seventies, but surpassed Sarasota County in the eighties, nineties, and early years of 2000's. Sarasota County's greatest years of growth were during the seventies, but home development in the most recent decade has not failed to compete. The most recent decade of homes built between 2000 and 2009 shows a marked increase from the percent of homes built during 1990 to 1999.
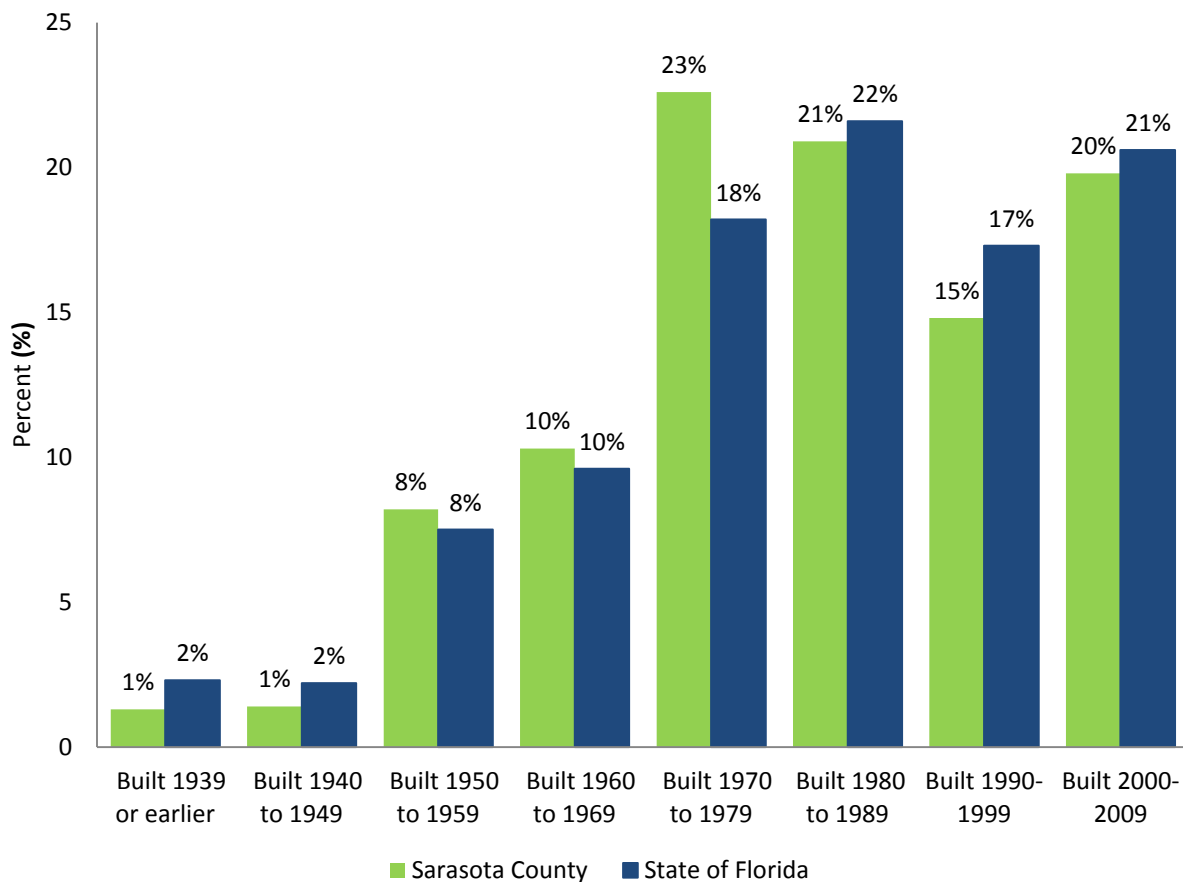

Figure 115: U.S. Census Bureau

Housing

Year Homes Built
Sarasota County

■ Built 2000 or later

■ Built 1999 or earlier

In 1998, the State of Florida adopted a uniform, more stringent building code following the wreckage of homes and businesses during Hurricane Andrew in 1992.
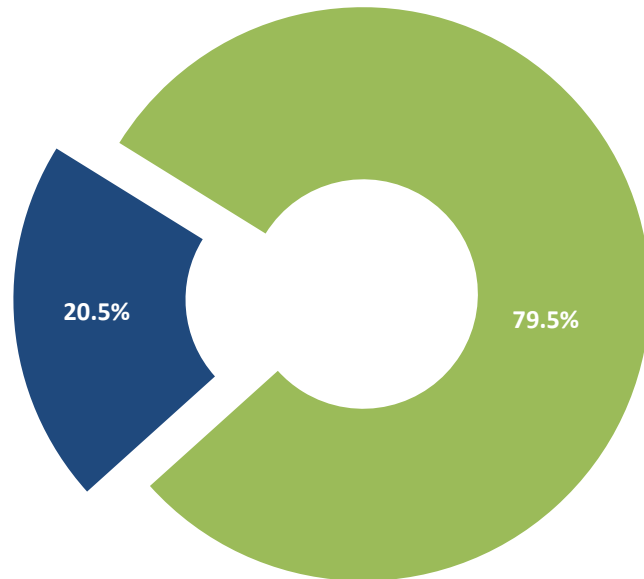
20.5%

79.5%

Figure 116: U.S. Census Bureau

In 1998, the State of Florida adopted a uniform building code that set strict standards on the integrity and safety of "… the construction, erection, alteration, modification, repair, equipment, use and occupancy, location, maintenance, removal and demolition of every public and private building, structure" (101.4.2 FBC). The Florida Building Code was largely a response to the physical devastation to homes and businesses caused by Hurricane Andrew in 1992, which revealed a weak building code that was not well administered or enforced. The outcome was a more powerful building code that set uniform standards across the state and could only be amended by local jurisdictions with more stringent codes that define local needs. One aspect of the new building code was strict hurricane safety standards.

Using 1999 as the break, just over 21% of all homes in Sarasota County were constructed after the introduction of the Florida Building Code. This is not to say, however, that homes constructed prior to 1998 do not meet current standards or have not been modified to meet the current building code.

Source: www.floridabuilding.org

Housing

This bar graph shows 2012 data on the percent of housing units available in Sarasota County, by number of units in the housing structure. This chart includes the percent of change in the ratio of housing types since 2005, the most recent data available for previous years
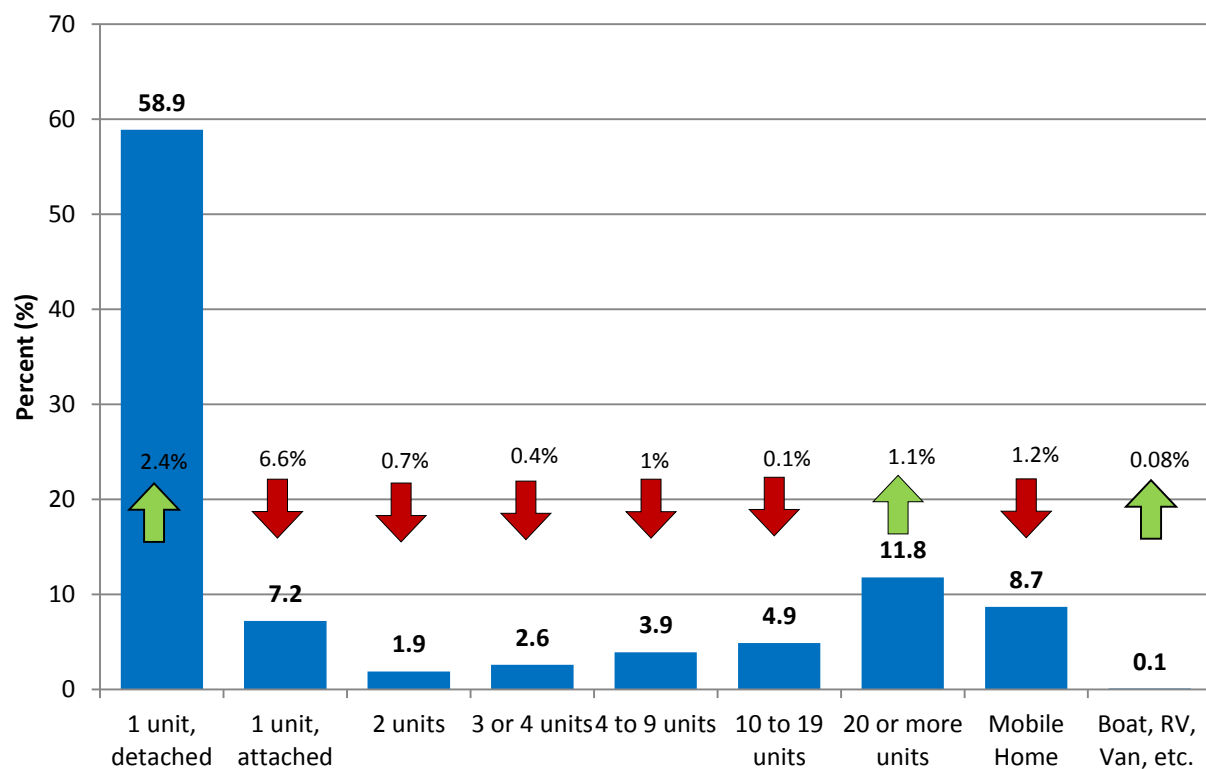

Figure 117: U.S. Census Bureau

Single, detached housing units comprise the largest proportion of the available housing stock, at about 60%. Since 2005, single, detached housing increased by about 2.4% from about 56.5%. The largest decrease since 2005 was in the number of 1-unit attached homes, dropping 6.6%. All other attached housing units saw a decline, except for housing structures containing 20 or more units. This category increased by 1.1%. The only other category that saw an increase since 2005 were boats, RV's, vans, etc. Although a fractional amount, this category more than tripled from 0.02% in 2005 to .1% in 2012.

This shows that housing development since 2005 has focused on single family, detached homes and large, 20+ unit buildings, while more people today are designating boats, RV's, and vans as housing.

Emergency Shelters

Evacuating Population, by Storm Category
Sarasota County

This graph shows the aggregate population who could potentially evacuate given a public evacuation notice in the event of a storm. The category designation of a storm *loosely* coincides with the evacuation zone and storm surge area.
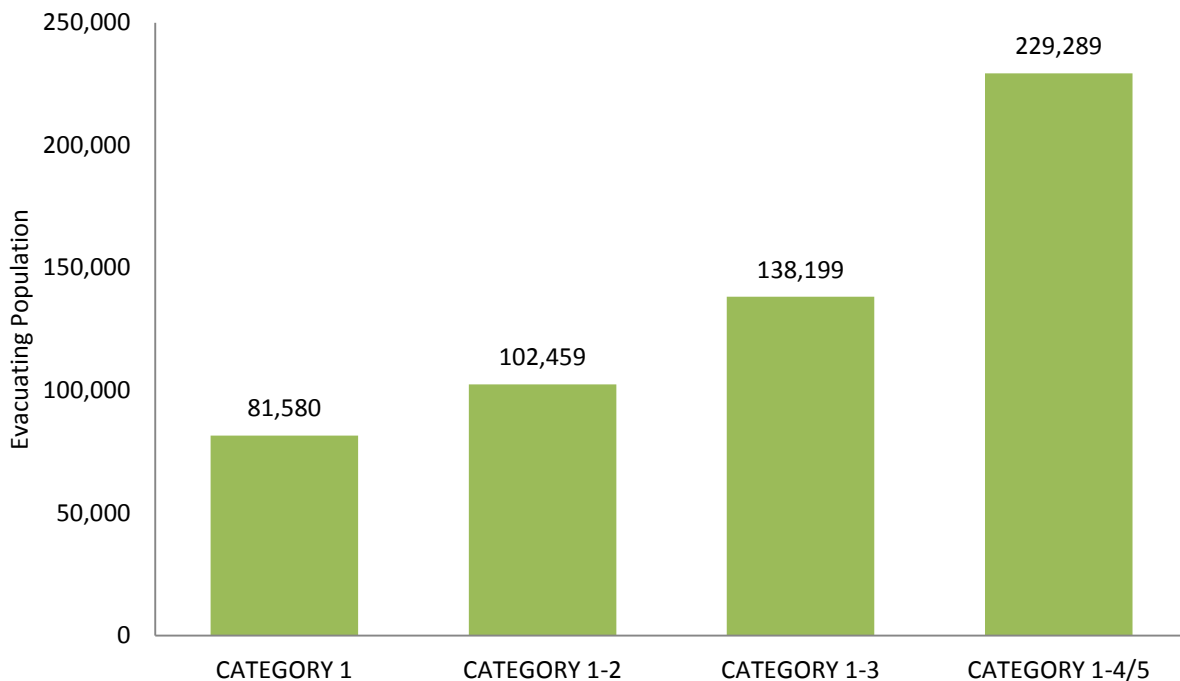

Figure 118: Sarasota County Government, Comprehensive Plan

The aggregate data shows that in the event of a category 4 or 5 storm, almost 230,000 residents in Sarasota County could evacuate. Given a category 3 storm, about 138,000 residents could seek refuge. A category 2 storm has the potential to create about 102.5 evacuees, while a category 1 storm could possibly create 81,580 evacuees in Sarasota County.

Federal emergency recommendation is that public shelters should have a capacity to hold up to 20% of the population in the event of a storm. Sarasota County Emergency Services report that the county has never had an evacuation rate above 3% of the total population. As shown in the prior section, many homes in the county are built to modern standards and meet the strict hurricane standards set forth by the Florida Uniform Building Code.

Emergency Services release evacuation notices in the event of a storm based on several different factors, such as location of the storm in relation to the county, as well as direction of the storm. A Category 1 storm does not necessitate an evacuation of zone 1. This holds true for any other category or evacuation zone.

Emergency Shelters

This data shows the total capacity of Sarasota County public shelters, by storm category and allotted space to each evacuee. The category designation of a storm loosely coincides with the evacuation zone and storm surge area. Emergency Services release evacuation notices in the event of a storm based on several different factors, such as location of the storm in relation to the county, as well as direction of the storm. A Category 1 storm does not necessitate an evacuation of zone 1. This holds true for any other category or evacuation zone.
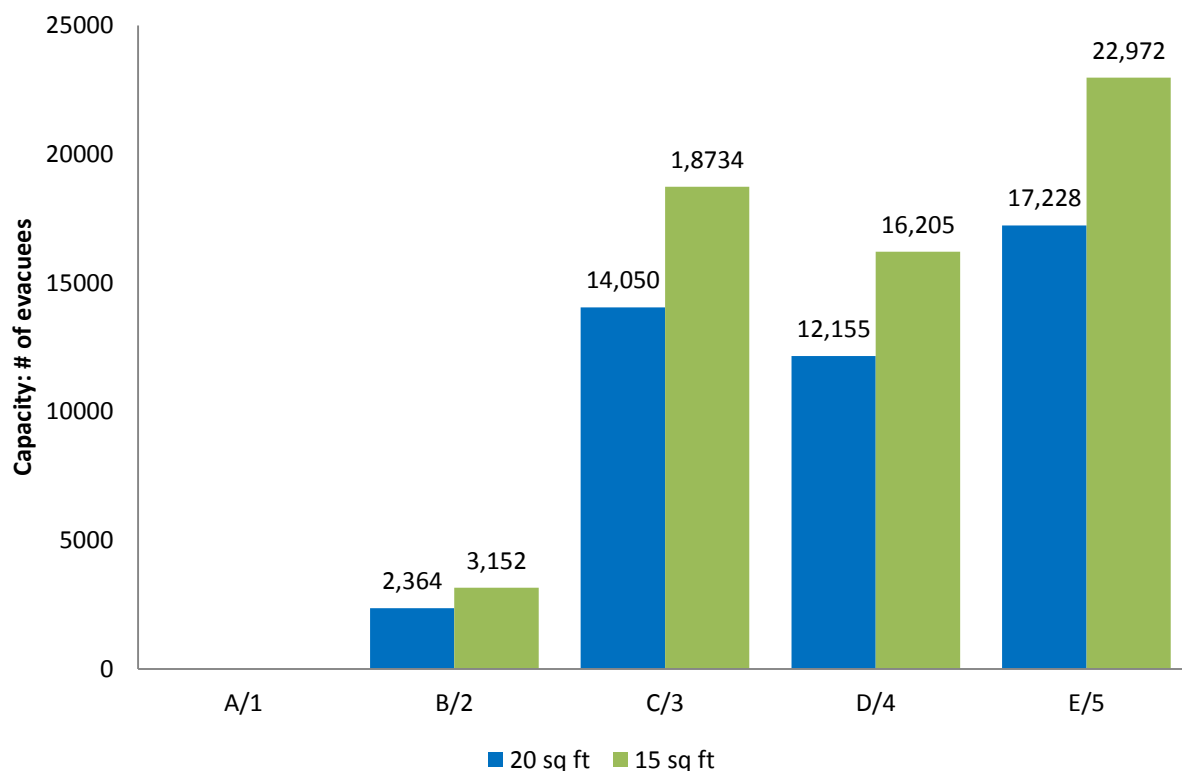

Figure 119: Sarasota County, Emergency Management Services

Sarasota County emergency shelters have a total shelter capacity that ranges from about 46,000 up to 61,000 evacuees. Shelter space is dependent on how much space is allotted for each evacuee. The lower threshold provides a personal space of about 20 sq ft, while the higher threshold provides a personal space of 15 sq ft per evacuee. Public announcements are made by Emergency Services in the event of a storm that list available shelters. All shelters are equipped to withstand storms, regardless of listed evacuation zone/storm category.

Permitting

Affordable Housing
Sarasota County (unincorporated)

This data counts the number of permits that were issued for affordable housing development for lower- and moderate-income households. The data is limited to the unincorporated Sarasota County. Municipalities within the county are responsible for permits issued in their respective jurisdictions.

What is affordable housing?
Affordable housing is market rate housing that receives a subsidy to make it affordable to lower income households.

In the most recent years available, Sarasota County has had a lower number of affordable housing permits issued compared to previous years. In 2013, 14 permits were issued. This was an increase in 3 permits from 2013, which marked an all-time low in issued permits in the time frame provided by the data. There was a steady decline in affordable housing permits issued since 2010, when a total of 44 were issued. However, this also marked a peak after a tremendous climb in number of permits issued from 2007 and 2008 when a total of 16 affordable housing permits were issued for each year. In 2006, a total of 54 affordable housing permits were issued – the highest amount in the time frame provided by the data.
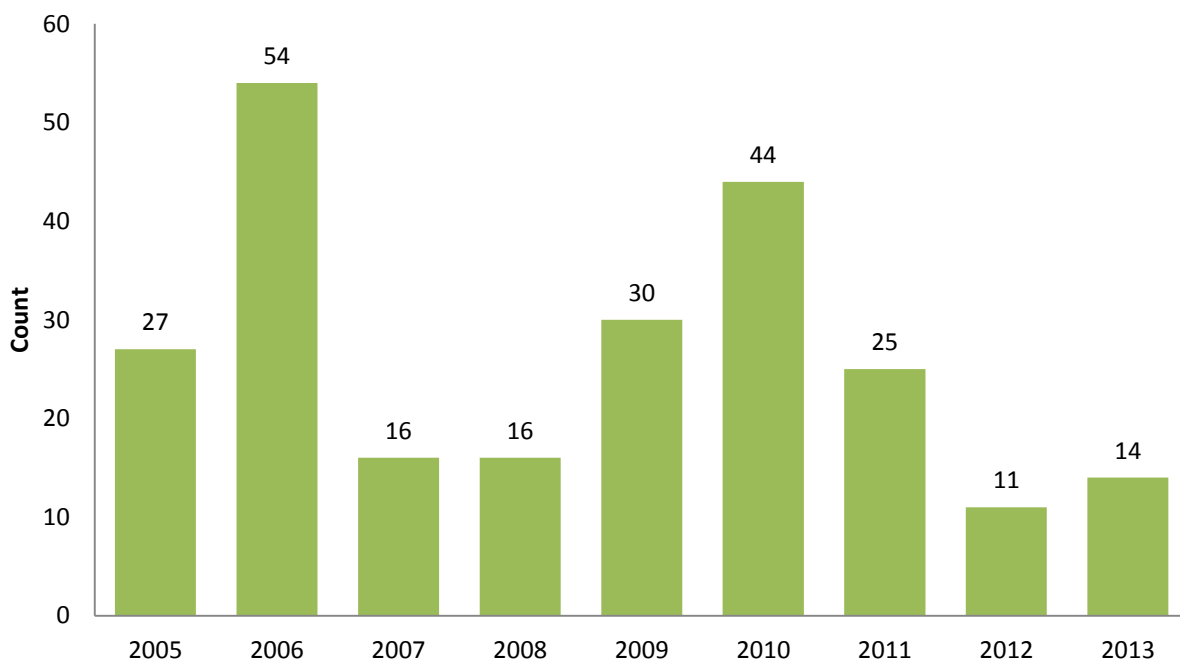
Figure 120: Sarasota County, Permitting and Inspection Services

Permitting

GREEN Construction

GREEN Construction
Sarasota County (Unincorporated)

This data shows the number of GREEN Construction permits that were issued by Sarasota County between 2005 and 2012, the most recent data available at the time of request. The data is limited to the unincorporated Sarasota County. Municipalities within the county are responsible for permits issued in their respective jurisdictions.

.   **What is GREEN Construction?** GREEN Construction is an energy star rating system based on the energy performance standard for buildings. Standards are based on the Florida Green Building Coalition which provides green building standards and certification programs in the State of Florida.
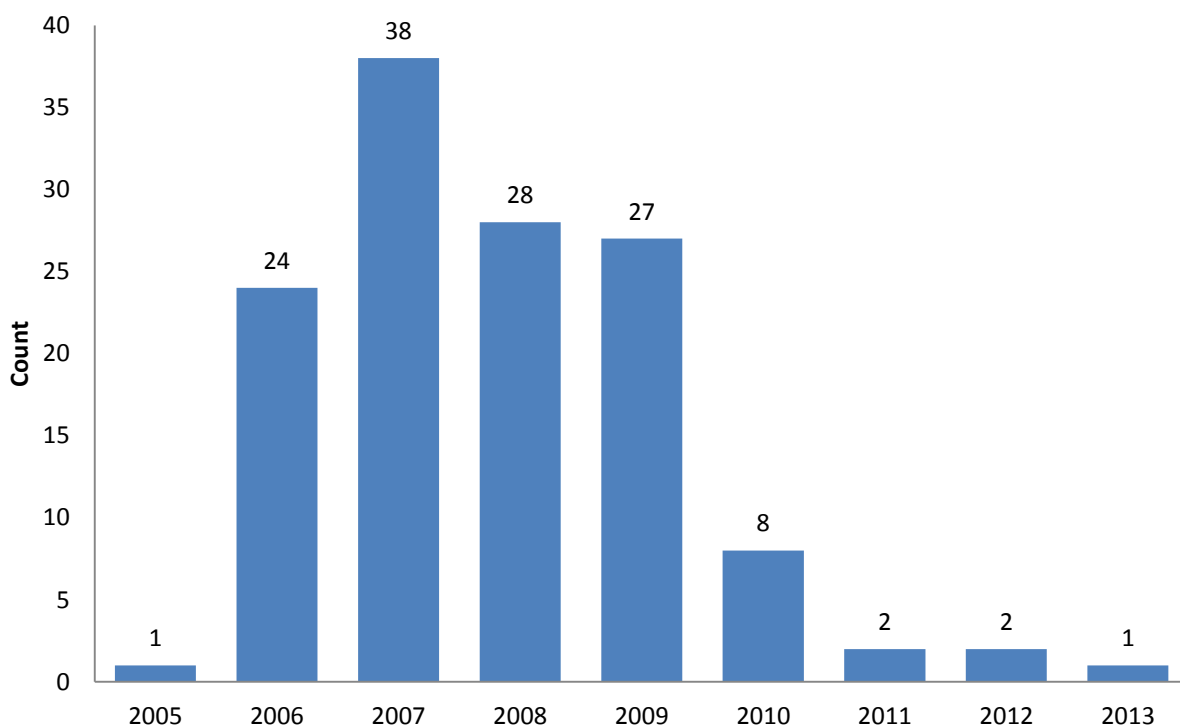

Figure 1: Sarasota County, Permitting and Inspection Services

Permitting for GREEN Construction has seen significant declines from 2006 to 2013. There was a very pronounced increase from 2005, when one GREEN project was permitted, to 2007 when a grand total of 38 projects were permitted. Since then, a declining trend commenced that was gradual until 2009 when 27 permits were issued. The following year showed a decrease by 19 projects, and was succeeded by two consecutive years in which a total of four permits were issued. In the most recent data available, only one GREEN project was permitted in unincorporated Sarasota County in 2013.

Permitting

Complete Demolition
Sarasota County (unincorporated)

The data above shows the number of permits issued by Sarasota County for complete demolition projects. The data is limited to the unincorporated Sarasota County. Municipalities within the county are responsible for permits issued in their respective jurisdictions.

In the time frame provided by the data, from 2005 to 2013, there has been a general decline in the number of complete demolition projects permitted by the county. In 2005, a total of 273 complete demolition permits were issued. The following two years showed a noteworthy decrease to 150 permits in 2007, after which permits issued continued a general decline until 2011 when the trend has shown an increase. In 2013, the most recent year available, a total of 164 complete demolition projects were permitted which shows an increase of 44 permitted projects from 2012.

The nature of complete demolition projects provide opportunity for infill projects rather than new development on property that might have been previously undeveloped.
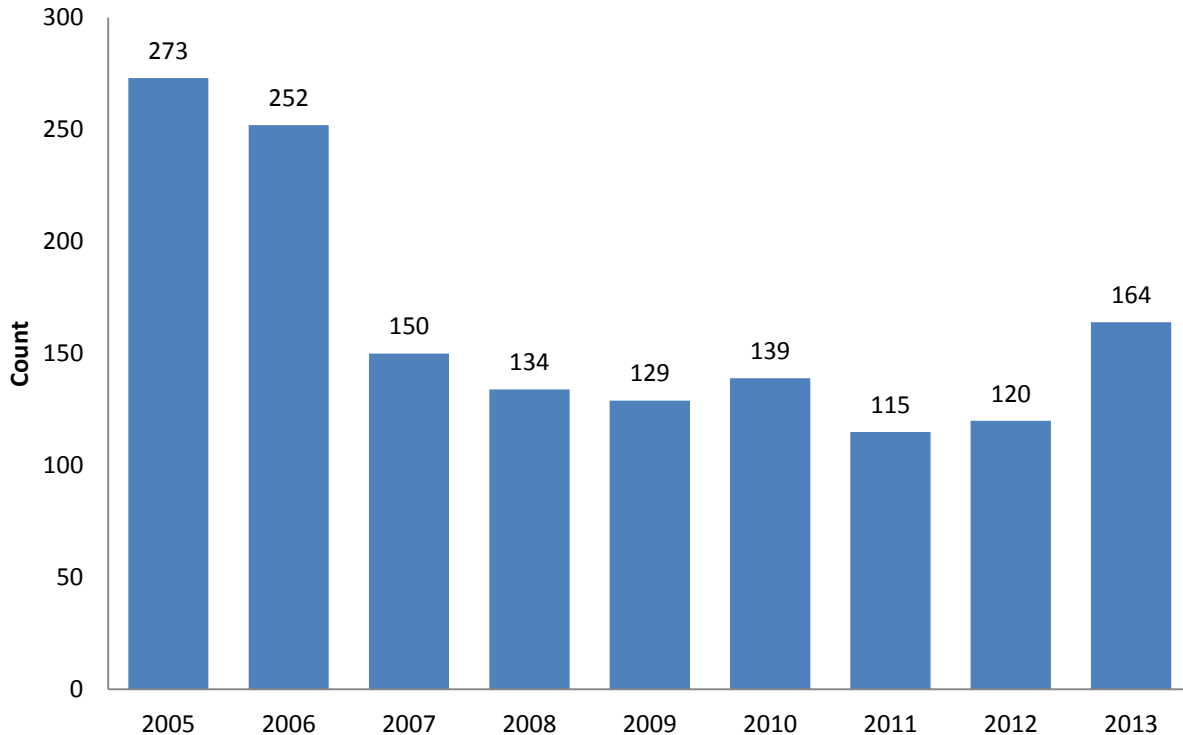

Figure 2: Sarasota County, Permitting and Inspection Services

Permitting

Total: Privately Owned Residential Dwellings Permitted
Sarasota County

The data shows the number of new privately-owned residential buildings permitted, as well as the number of units permitted within each building, for Sarasota County. Not all jurisdictions follow similar guidelines in permitting new construction. Some jurisdiction issue a permit for every unit within a residential building, while others may issue one permit for an entire building. This data counts the number of buildings and units authorized by a permit, and not the total of number of permits issued.

This data shows a dramatic decrease from 2005 to 2006 in the number of new privately-owned buildings and units. The year 2005 marked the peak of an upward trend in residential development where just over 7,000 buildings were permitted, totaling about 8,300 individual units. In 2006, these values dropped to about 3,500 buildings totaling just over 4,000 units. This decrease continued until 2009 after which the number of residential buildings/units began a slow increasing trend. The most recent data available in 2012 shows a total of 1,007 buildings comprising 1,242 residential units.
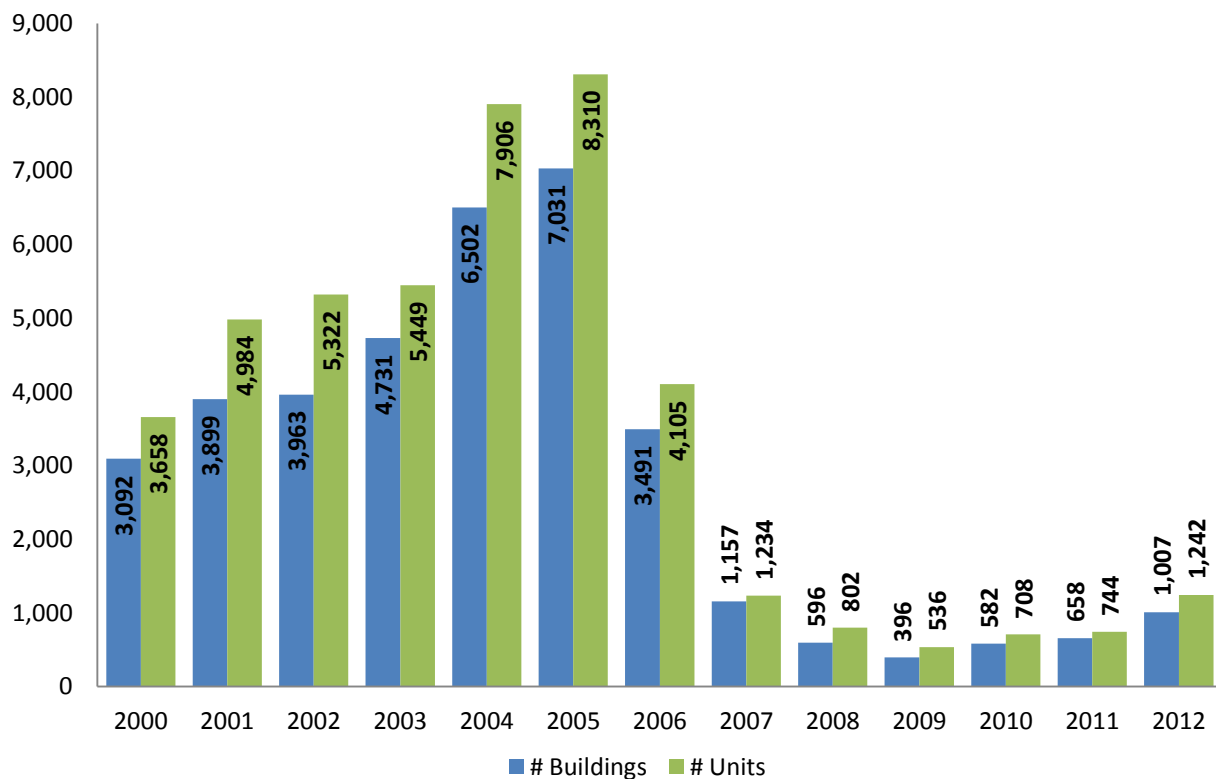

Figure 3: U.S. Census Bureau

Permitting

Privately Owned Residential Dwellings Permitted


Single-Family:

This graph mirrors the same trend illustrated in the previous graph – from 2000 to 2005, there was a very strong increasing trend in the number of single-family residential buildings permitted in Sarasota County. In 2005, the total number reached almost 7,000 single-family, privately-owned residential buildings. In 2006, that same number decreased by half, and more than halved again in 2007 and 2008. By 2009, the downward trend reached a low of 386 single-family residential buildings permitted. Since then, however, the trend reversed and the total number of single family residential buildings increased to a total of 1,067 in 2012.
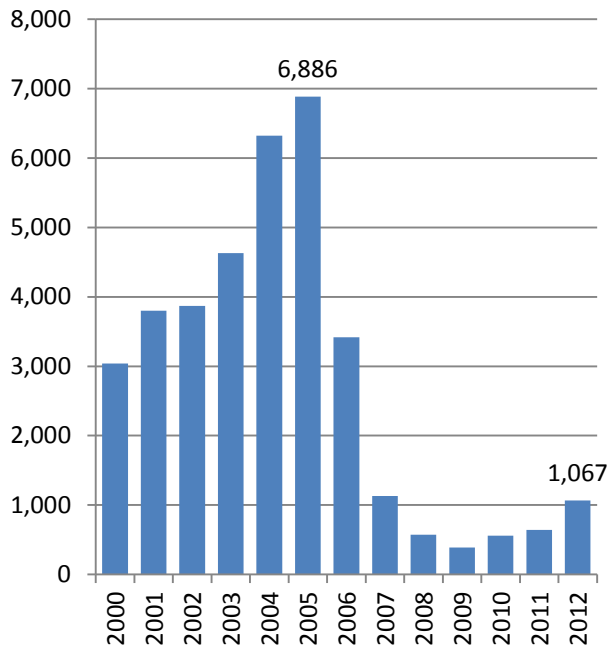
Two-Family:

This data counts the number of buildings and units authorized by a permit, and not the total number of permits issued.

The number of annually permitted two-family privately-owned residential buildings and units do not show a particularly steady trend. The number of two-family buildings/units permitted in Sarasota County saw a spike in 2005. This was an outlying year where a total of 56 two-family buildings were permitted. In 2006 and 2007, the number of permitted two-family buildings was 17 and 18, respectively. Since then, those values have decreased. In 2012, only two two-family residential buildings were permitted in Sarasota County.
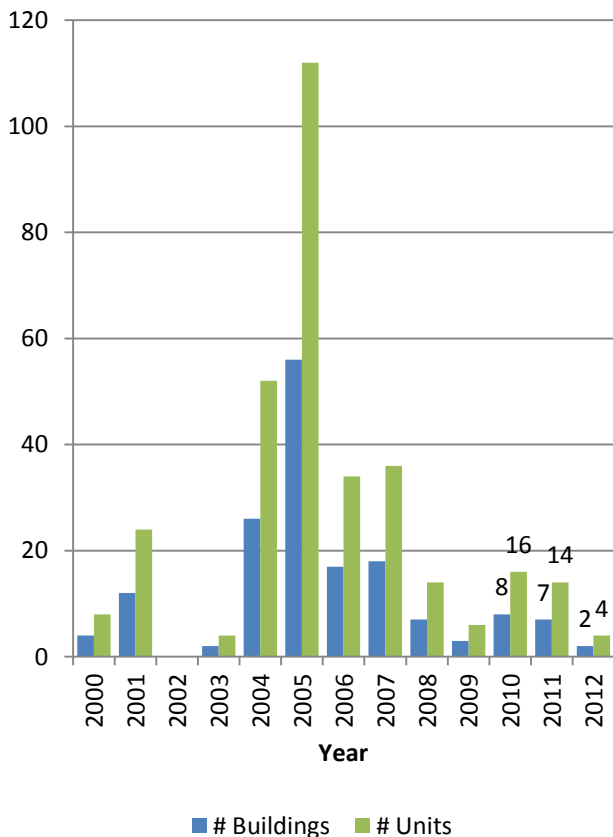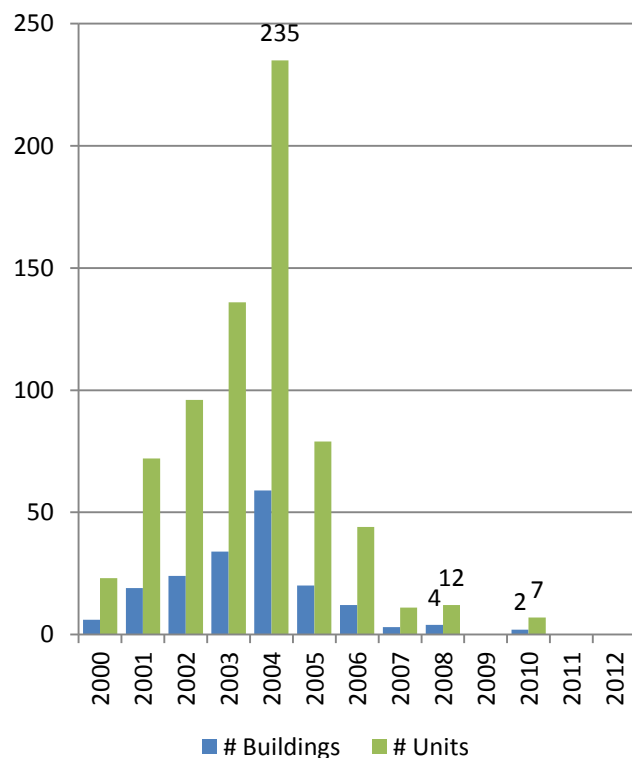
*Figures 124 + 125: U.S. Census Bureau*

Permitting

Privately Owned Residential Dwellings Permitted

Three & Four Family:

Permitting for three- and four- family residential buildings/units have not been very popular in the past few years. No such dwellings were permitted in 2009, 2011 and 2012. In 2010, a total of 2 buildings (7 units) were authorized in Sarasota County. This figure is somewhat consistent with 2007 and 2008 where 3 buildings (11 units) and 4 buildings (12 units) were permitted, respectively. The year 2004 shows the highest number of three- and four- family residential buildings/units permitted in the time frame provided by the data. A total of 59 buildings were permitted, comprising a total 235 units. This year followed an upward trend and was the peak before the decreasing trend commenced in 2005.
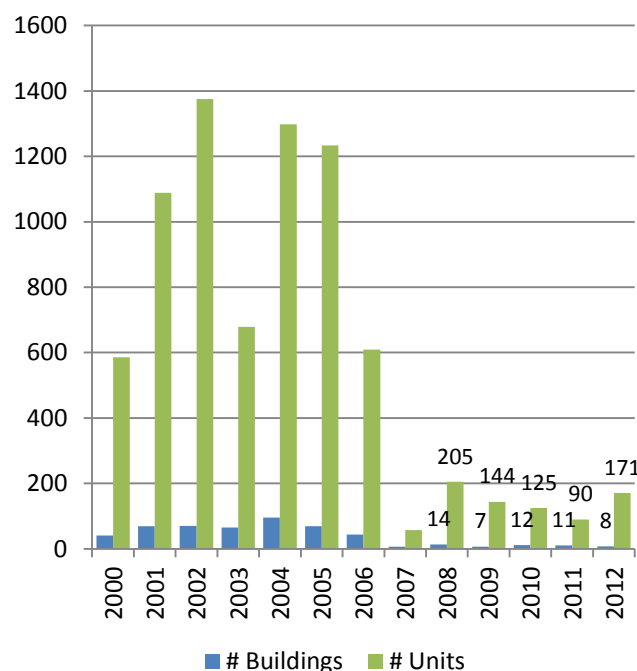
Five + Family:

From 2007 to 2012, the total number of buildings permitted with providing shelter for five or more households vacillated between 7 and 14 buildings a year. In 2012, a total of 8 such buildings were permitted in Sarasota County, comprising a total of 171 units. Between 2000 and 2006, however, the total number of buildings permitted was much higher. There were 96 five+ family buildings permitted in 2004, followed by a total of 69 in 2005. This was followed by a decrease in 2006 to 44 permitted five+ family residential buildings, comprising 609 dwelling units.
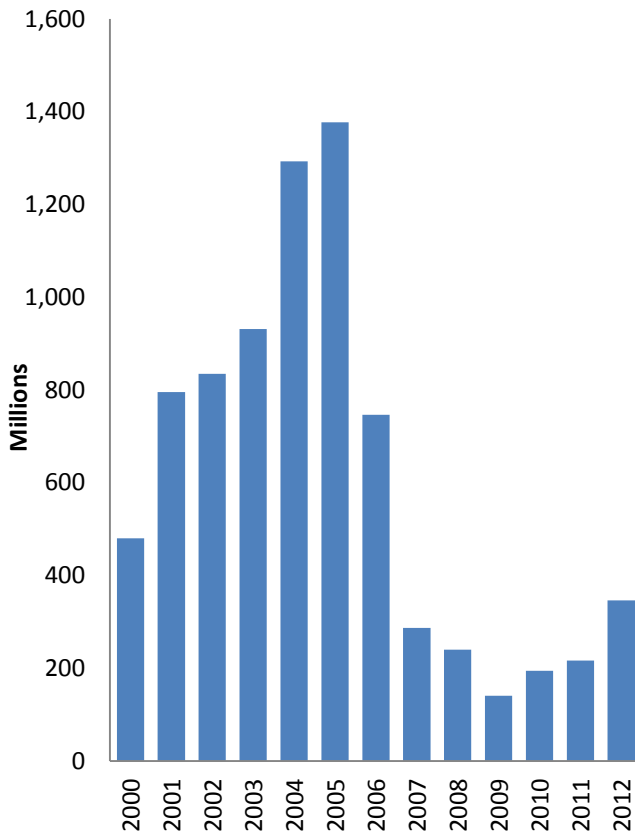
Figures 126 + 127: U.S. Census Bureau

Property Value Privately Owned Residential Dwellings Permitted

Total Estimated Property Value of Permitted Projects


Figure 128: U.S. Census Bureau

This graph provides the total estimated value of privately owned permitted residential buildings/units in Sarasota County from 2000 to 2012. These figures were derived from estimations reported in the building permits and might not represent actual or current cost/value.

Repeating a familiar trend seen in previous graphs, the data shows that overall value of new privately-owned permitted residential buildings/units in Sarasota County reached a peak in 2005 of close to $1.4 billion. The total estimated value of permitted residential dwellings decreased by almost half in 2006 to about $750 million. The trend continued to decrease as total estimated value of privately-owned permitted residential dwellings reached a recent low in 2009 at about $141 million. Since then, however, total values of new residential permits have increased to a recent high of $346.7 million in 2012.

Homestead Exemptions
Sarasota County

2008: 116:852
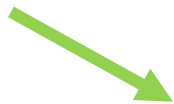
2013: 109,965

The numbers of Homestead Exemptions have decreased by almost 6% since 2008.

Source: Sarasota County, Property Appraiser

Housing Burden (2013)
Sarasota County

Occupants Spending 30% or more of their annual income on housing.

	Sarasota County	Florida
Owners with a Mortgage	47.5%	46.2%
Owners without a Mortgage	18.7%	18.6%
Renters	55.4%	59.9%

Transportation

Means of Transportation to Work

2012

These indicators show the means of transportation used by workers aged 16 and over to get to work. The total population includes individuals who work at home.

Drive Alone:

Overall, most workers drive alone to work rather than using another form of transportation. A larger percent of both the Sarasota population and the Florida population drive alone to work in comparison to the national population. While Florida had a greater percent from 2005 through 2007, Sarasota County's percent of workers surpassed Florida's and the United States' from 2008 through 2012. In Sarasota County, the largest percent of workers between 2008 and 2012 that drove alone to work was 83% in 2011.

Carpooled:

Overall, the second largest percent of the county, state, and national population carpool to work. From 2005-2012, the largest percent of workers to carpool to work, 11.6%, was in Sarasota in 2006. After 2006, there was a decline in the percent of workers to carpool to work in Sarasota, with slight increases in 2011 and 2012.

Figures 129 + 130: United States Census Bureau, American Community Survey, American Fact Finder
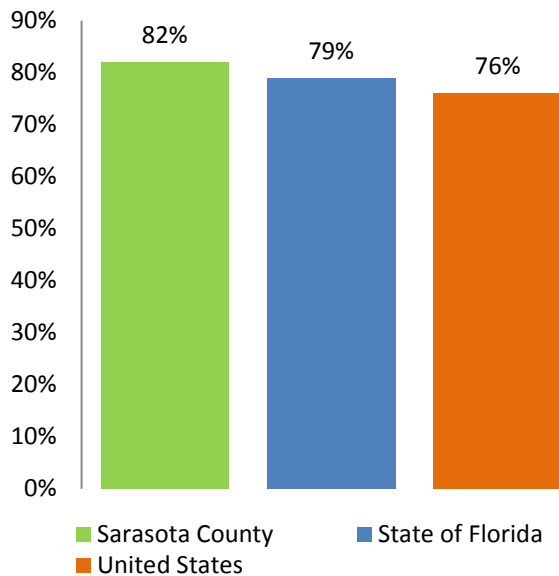
Transportation

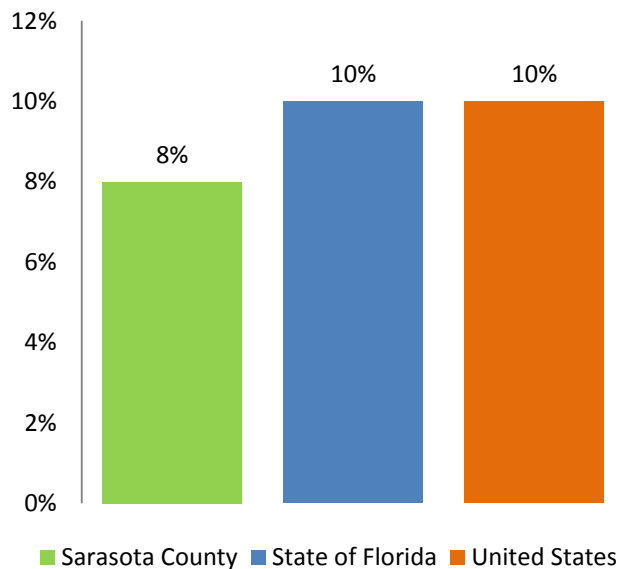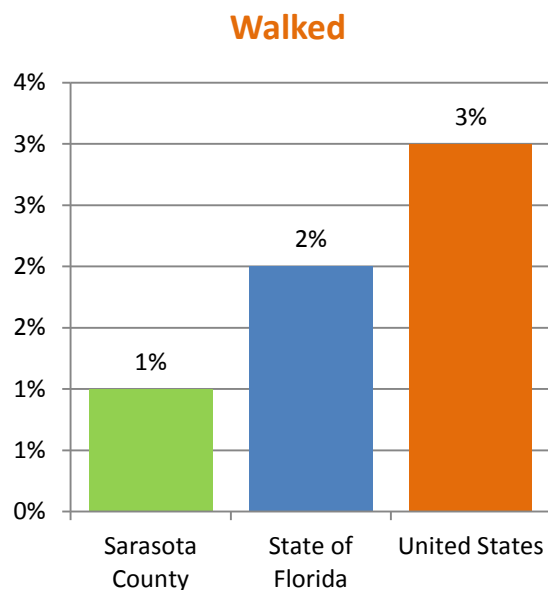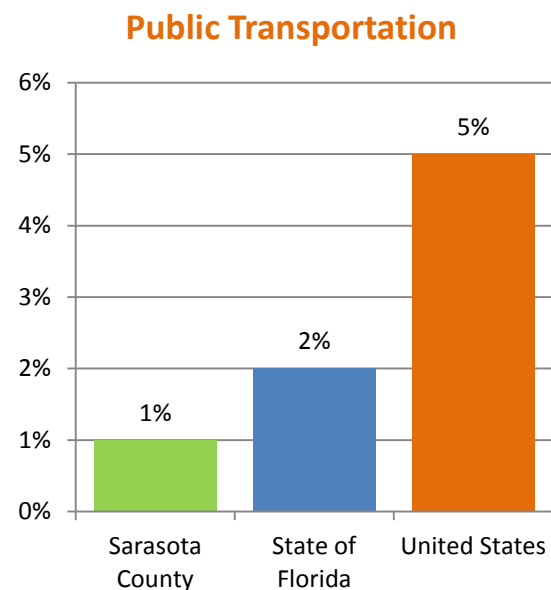## Means of Transportation to Work

2012

These indicators show the means of transportation used by workers aged 16 and over to get to work. The total population includes individuals who work at home.

Walked

Public Transportation

The national percent of people who walk to work, which remains below 3%, is greater than both the county and state percent of workers. In considering the percent of people who walk to work, one should also consider the fact that the built environment and normalization of walking as a means of relocation varies across the nation. For example, some areas have more sidewalks, or wider sidewalks, that make it easier and safer for people to walk.

The differences in county, state, and national percent are small—sometimes only a fraction of a percent. Similarly, the positive and negative variation in Sarasota always fluctuated less than 2% from one year to the one immediately after.

Figures 131 + 132: United States Census Bureau, American Community Survey, American Fact Finder

While only around 5% of the national population use public transportation to get to work, the national percent was greater than the percent of the percent of workers in Sarasota and Florida that used public transportation to get to work. The percent of workers who used public transportation did not fluctuate much over the years. In considering the use of public transit, one should also consider the varied built environments across the United States, impacting availability or possible utilization of public transportation systems across the United States, as well as in Sarasota County and Florida. The positive and negative variation in Sarasota County always fluctuated less than 2% from one year to the one immediately after.

Transportation

Daily Vehicle Miles Traveled Per Capita (DVMT)

This was calculated by dividing the total daily vehicle miles traveled in Sarasota County by county population estimates, provided by the Bureau of Economic and Business Research. This indicator illustrates the average daily number of miles driven per individual per year. Dividing by total population also allows for us to control for possible variations in DVMT per year due to population changes over time.
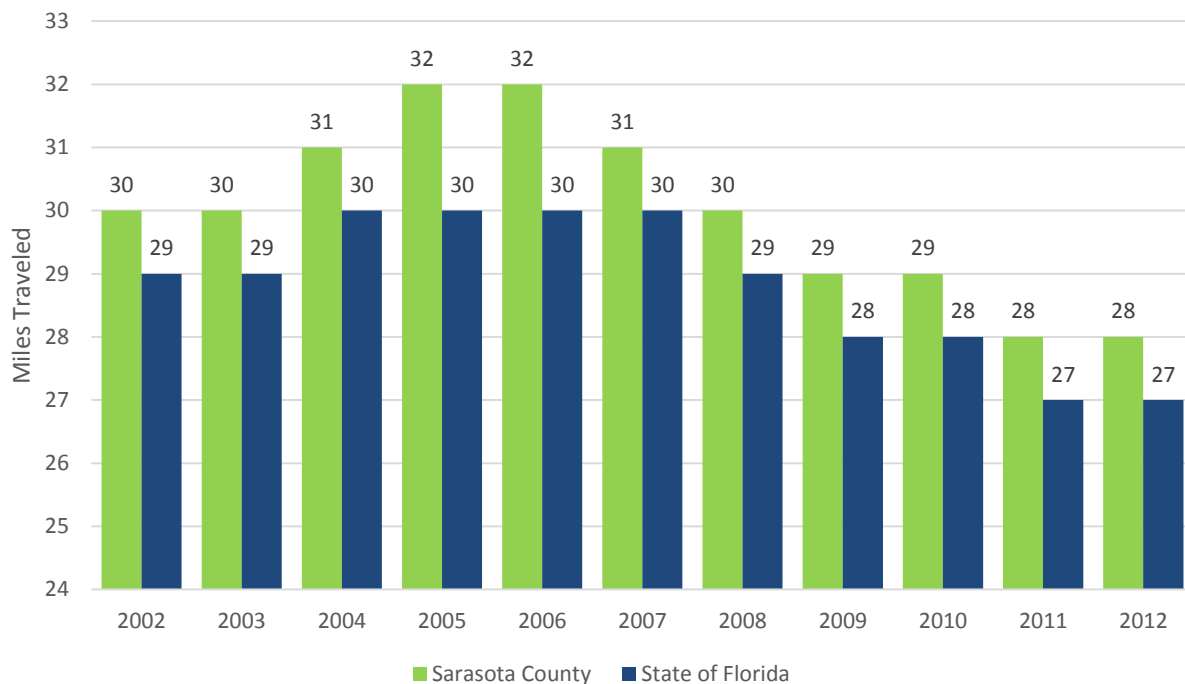
Figure 4: Florida Department of Transportation

Overall, more per capita vehicle miles are traveled daily in Sarasota County than Florida over the entire range of time presented. However, both the state and county follow a similar pattern, with an increase through 2006, followed by a decrease in per capital daily vehicle miles traveled through 2012 (with the exception of the state holding constant from 2004 through 2007)

How many miles do you travel per day?
What is your primary mode of transportation?

Public Transportation

Sarasota County Area Transit (SCAT)

SCAT Passenger Trips
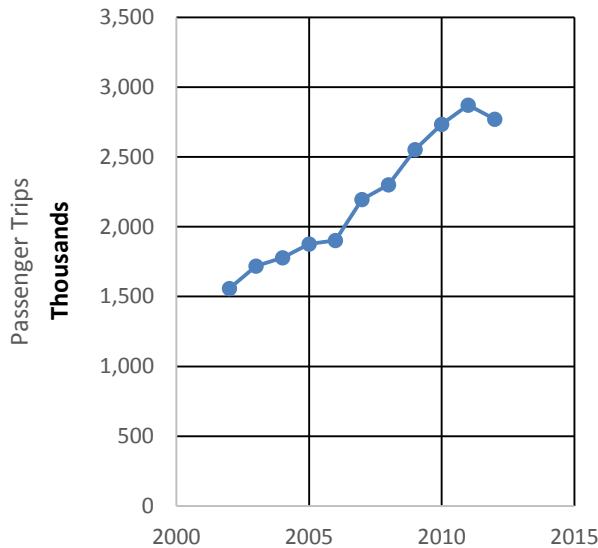
Overall, the number of passenger trips increases from 2002-2011, with a decline in the number of trips in 2012. From 2002 to 2012 there was a 78% increase in the annual number of passenger trips.

The passenger trips indicator is defined as a general performance indicator, illustrating the annual number of Sarasota County Area Transit (SCAT) passengers boarding.

This data does not take into account the change in population.

Passenger Trips Per Revenue Mile

Figures 134 + 135: Integrated National Transit Database Analysis System
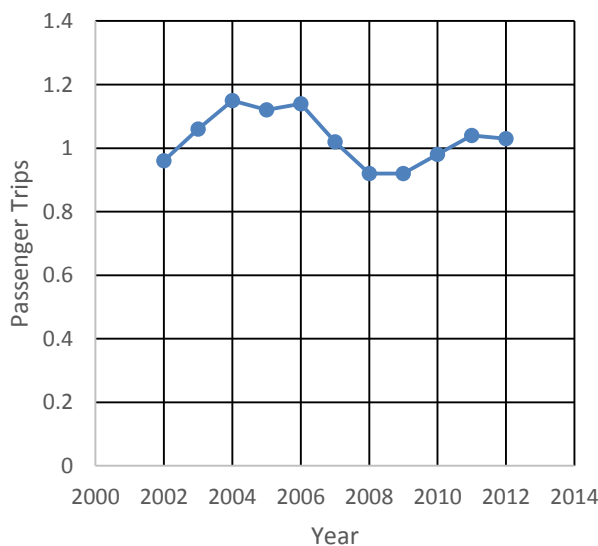
The passenger trips per revenue mile indicator is defined as an effectiveness indicator illustrating the passenger trip and revenue miles of SCAT service ratio. This is defined as an effectiveness indicator because it illustrates the demand of the service relative to the supply of the service.

While the total passenger trips have continued to increase over time, the passenger trips per revenue mile increased and decreased over the same span of time.

The pattern for passenger trips per revenue mile does not follow the pattern for passenger trips. After consulting with a SCAT representative, it was learned that as a result of the increase of services in 2006 and 2008, there was an increase in miles. As well, in 2011, the Express bus was added and those services were expanded in 2012. Thus, both parts of the ratio are changing.

Public Transportation

Sarasota County Area Transit (SCAT)

Average Fare (2012$)

Average fare is an efficiency indicator dividing the SCAT revenue earned through passenger fare by the overall number of passenger trips. This data takes inflation into account, presenting the average fares in 2012 dollars.

When considering the average fare, one should consider the fact that the actual bus fare may vary from individual to individual; for example, the standard bus fare is different from an elderly person's bus fare or discounted student rates.

The highest average bus fare during this time range, $0.67, was in 2012. The lowest was $0.38 in 2005. The standard bus fare for a one way trip is $1.25.

Operating Expense Per Passenger Trip
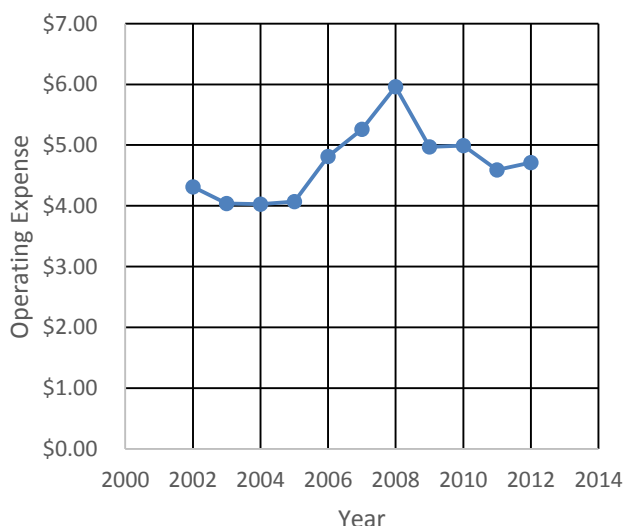
Operating expense per passenger trip is defined as an efficiency measure illustrating the amount SCAT spent for operation divided by the number of passenger trips per year. This data takes inflation into account, presenting the average fares in 2012 dollars.

The greatest operating expense, $5.96, during this time range was in 2008. The lowest operating expense per passenger was $4.03 in 2004. The change in expense per passenger trip from 2002-2012 has stayed within a two dollar range.

Figures 136 + 137: Integrated National Transit Database Analysis System

How often do you use the SCAT bus?

Is there a bus stop near your home?

Air Transportation

This indicator illustrates the total number of passengers that utilize either the Southwest, Sarasota-Bradenton, or Tampa airports per year.
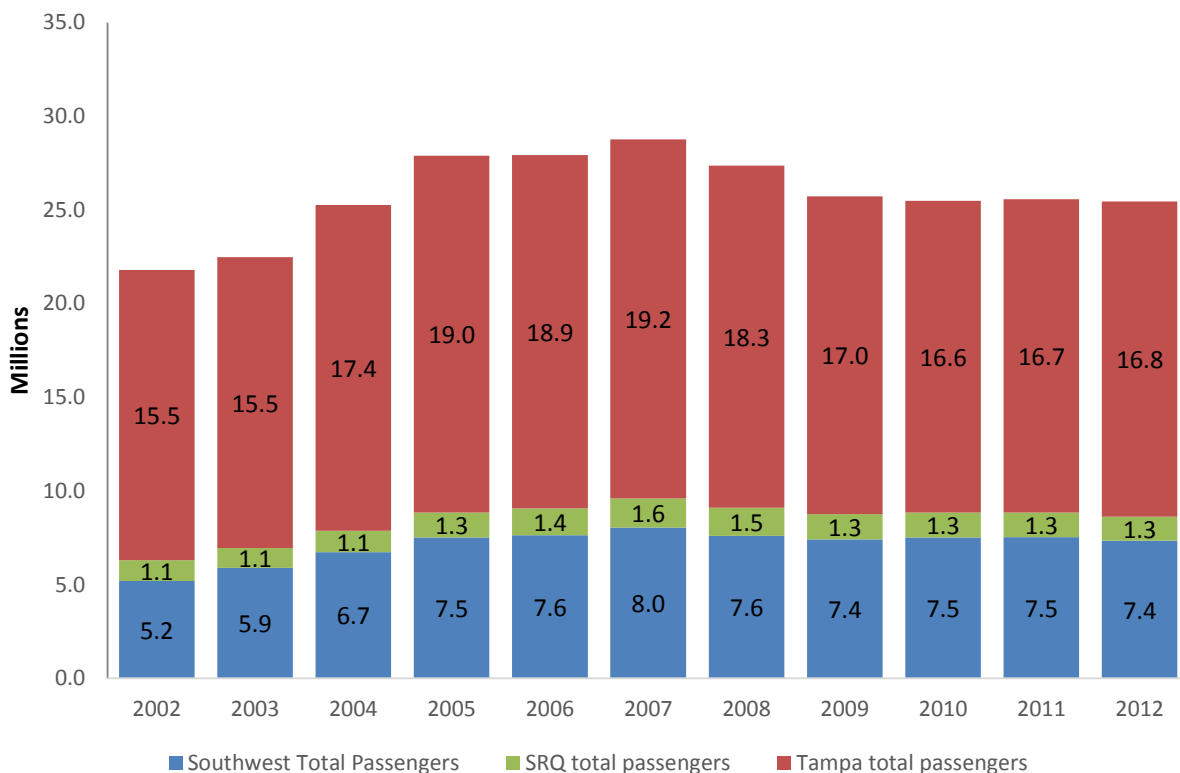
Figure 138: Hillsborough County Aviation Authority; Sarasota Bradenton International Airport; Southwest Florida International Airport

Tampa services the most passengers out of the gulf coast airports, as presented in this graph, followed by Southwest. Sarasota-Bradenton airport services the least. The total number of passengers using Gulf Coast airports increased though 2007. The total number of passengers decreased in 2008, but remained around 25 million – 26 million passengers from 2009 to 2012. On average, Sarasota-Bradenton served 5% of the passengers using the Gulf Coast Airports during this time frame.

Now that you have reviewed the full set of indicators for the built environment and transportation domain of well-being, which indicators do you find most significant?

Resident-participants who took part in the SCOPE High Tech High Touch Workshops in 2013 were asked to rank indicators that were most valuable in assessing different domains of well-being. Participants were particularly interested in housing occupancy and modes of transportation within the built environment and transportation domain of well-being.

Let's review those indicators and see how they are trending.

Sarasota County Housing Density (Per square mile)		2005 → 2012		
	Total	376	411	**+4.7%**
	Occupied Housing	297	311	**+9%**

Sarasota County % Vacant Housing		2005 → 2012		
	Sarasota County	21%	24%	**+3%**
	Florida	15%	20%	**+5%**

These indicators show that total housing density in Sarasota County has increased by almost 5% since 2005. At the same time, occupied housing density has increased at a faster rate, 9%. The percent of vacant housing in Sarasota County has also increased over the previous seven years. In Sarasota County, vacant housing increased by about three percent, a slower rate than that of the state average – 5%.

Much of the housing data shows that Sarasota County is, again, on the upswing when it comes to construction and housing development. The number of residential unit permits have begun a steady increasing trend in recent years. This information, coupled with data showing increasing density, suggest that Sarasota County is not only expanding developed areas; but also developing in the empty spaces in already developed areas.

Lastly, including an increasing trend of vacant housing in Sarasota County, we may be able to deduce that the increase in housing development is faster than the rate at which Sarasota County can inhabit the increasing total housing stock.

Sarasota County
Means of Transportation to Work

2005 → 2012

	2005	2012		
Drove Alone	80%	82%	↑	**+2%**
Carpooled	10%	8%	↓	**-2%**
Walked	2%	1%	↓	**-1%**
Public Transportation	1%	1%	→	

The U.S. Census Bureau uses the means of transportation used to get to work as an indicator for resident preferred mode of transportation. Traveling to and from work is a journey many people take most days of the week and is thus a helpful indicator to deduce how most people travel around their communities.

In Sarasota County, the vast majority of residents reported that they drove to work – about 90% of the total working population (ages 16 and up). In 2012, about 82% of that driving population drove alone while 8% carpooled. The number of workers driving alone increased by 2% while the number of carpooling workers decreased by 2%. The percent of workers who chose to walk to work decreased between 2005 and 2012 by about 1%. Residents who used public transportation as their mode of transportation remained steady as 1% of the total working population.

The U.S. Census Bureau has released an exclusive report on worker transportation which focuses solely on workers who chose to walk or cycle to work. The report delves into recent trends that show, from 2008 to 2012, the greatest increase in workers choosing to cycle to work. While this group of workers is still a fraction of the total working population (0.6%), workers who cycle to work increased by about 60% from 2008.

The decision to choose walking or cycling as a preferred means of transportation is very much dependent on external factors, such as the built environment, weather conditions, and the degree to which this environment caters to pedestrians and cyclists, as well as to drivers and public transportation.

How do you travel to work? Is walking or cycling another option for you? Why or why not?

TRENDS TO KEEP OUR EYES ON
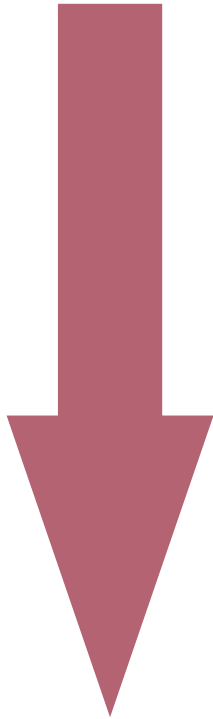
Apart from the increasing housing vacancy in Sarasota County and increasing number of workers who choose to drive alone to work, there is one more trend in this domain of well-being that we would like to keep our eyes on:

Public Transportation

Most recent data show that the total number of passengers on the Sarasota County Area Transit public transportation system has decreased by about 3.5% between 2011 and 2012. The SCAT network has been steadily improving and expanding and is providing residents with higher accessibility to SCAT bus stops. The county has also invested in improving buses and new, fuel efficient vehicles on the roads.

POSITIVE TRENDS

The built environment is seeing many positive trends, especially when it comes to development and housing construction.

- ✓ The total population housing in Sarasota County has been steadily increasing! Sarasota County is growing in total number of people, but we are also living closer together. In 2012, there were about 694 people per square mile; an increase of about 7.3% since 2005.
- ✓ Total housing density in Sarasota County is similarly seeing an increasing trend. This can translate into a healthy construction and development sector in the local economy. Total housing density increased by about 9.3% between 2005 and 2012 – a rate higher than the increasing population density.
- ✓ There has been an upswing in the total number of residential dwellings permitted in Sarasota County since the dramatic decrease following the peak in 2005. Single family detached housing has been the focus of residential development and is seeing the fasters growing rates. This is followed by buildings with 20 or more units.

"Cities have the capability of providing something for everybody, only because, and only when, they are created by everybody."
- Jane Jacobs, The Death and Life of Great American Cities
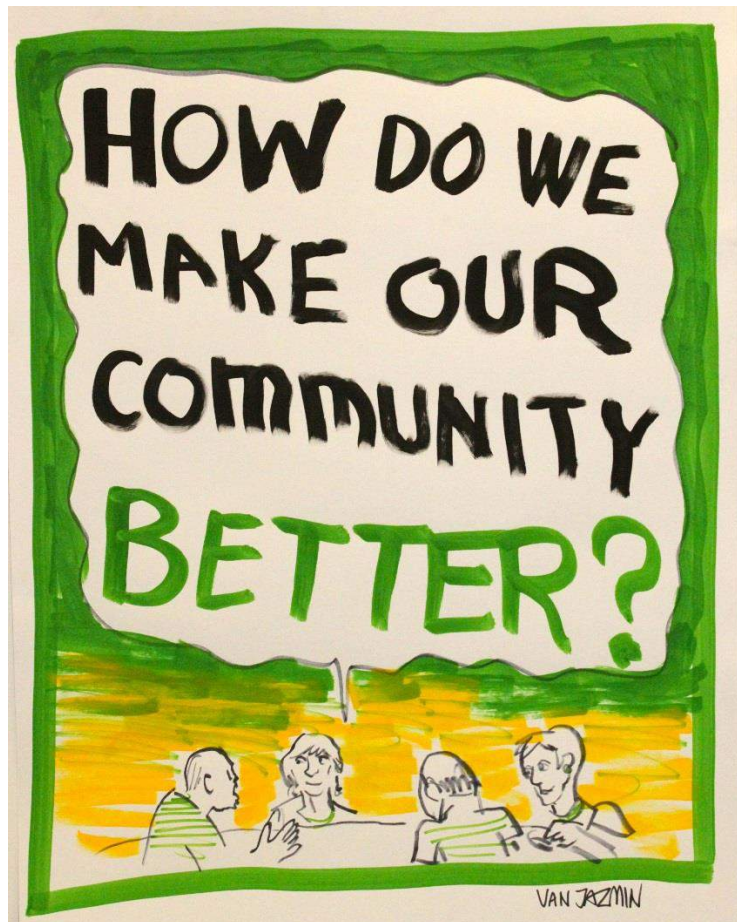
We encourage your own analysis of these indicators. Our intent is to spark conversation about issues you see in the data and to inspire action that comes from our community.

What indicators did we not include that would best show the overall health of Sarasota County? Please let us know!

About Our Sources

U.S. Census Bureau

census.gov

The U.S. Census Bureau works under the authority of the United States Code to collect and provide both demographic and economic data. The U.S. Census Bureau is responsible for conducing the decennial Population and Housing Census, the bi-decennial Economic Census and Census of Governments, the annual American Community Survey, as well as many other economic and demographic surveys. The U.S. Census Bureau also collects data on a variety of economic indicators. The data is used to determine allocation of federal funding to local, state and federal governments, the distribution of congressional seats, and to determine which community services to provide to the people.

Sarasota County Government, Permitting and Inspection Services

scgov.net/developmentservices

Sarasota County government's Permitting and Inspection Services is a component of the Planning and Development Services. The Permitting and Inspection Service works to help property owners, builders and permit agents through the permitting process in the County. Additional responsibilities of Development Services include land development, contractor licensing, zoning and code enforcement.

Sarasota County Government, Comprehensive Plan

scgov.net/compplan

The Sarasota County Comprehensive Plan – "Comp Plan" – is a comprehensive document adopted by the county government that is used to guide decision-making in all aspects of Sarasota County's physical development. The Comp Plan includes, but is not limited to, historic preservation, environment, watershed management, transportation, housing, future land use and capital improvements. This official document is inclusive to cover all geographical and functional aspects of the county. The plan is also formulated with a long-range vision to address anticipated or future issues, as well as current situations.

Sarasota County Government, Emergency Management Services

scgov.net/allhazards

" Saving Lives and Protecting Property."

The Emergency Services of Sarasota County work to organize emergency preparedness through the Comprehensive Emergency Management Plan. The Plan is designed to reduce the vulnerability of population and property in Sarasota County against natural or manmade disasters. Additionally, the plan streamlines emergency responsiveness by outlining roles and duties of various parts of government and emergency units.

Florida Department of Transportation

www.dot.state.fl.us

The Florida Department of Transportation (DOT) is The DOT plans and coordinates the entire transportation network throughout the state's region and is responsible for the overall safety, integration and efficiency of the state's transportation network. The DOT reports directly to the state governor. The transportation network in the state of Florida includes roadways, air, railways, sea passages, spaceports, bus transit and bicycle and pedestrian facilities.

Florida Transit Information System
Integrated National Transit Database Analysis System

www.ftis.org/intdas

The National Transit Database (NTD) is the result of the Urban Mass Transportation Act. In order for transit systems to receive federal funds, they must participate by providing data to this uniform data set. This data set collects all national transit data for analysis of trends, user ship, fleet sizes, revenues and subsidies, costs, safety and services, to mention a few indicators. The uniformity and centrality of the data makes it easy to run analysis to improve transportation systems around the county.

Tampa International Airport

www.tampaairport.com

" The vision of the Authority is to be a vibrant aviation gateway for Tampa Bay, providing access and economic opportunity for our stakeholders.»

The Hillsborough County Aviation Authority is an autonomous unit of the Hillsborough County government and is responsible for the operation of publicly owned aviation facilities in the county. The income and funds generated by the Aviation Authority is directly reinvested and spent on purposes related all public aviation facilities. The Tampa International Airport was opened in 1971 as the first landside/airside terminal complex. Airport statistics and activity reports are made available online.

Sarasota Bradenton International Airport
www.srq-airport.com

The Sarasota Manatee Airport Authority is a public agency under the State of Florida to take all actions required to manage and operate the Sarasota Bradenton International Airport. The Sarasota Manatee Airport Authority is responsible for meeting the air-travel needs and demands of both Sarasota and Manatee Counties. The airport's early history started in 1939 as a joint effort of both Sarasota and Manatee Counties. The airport, completed in 1942, was then leased to the Army Air Corps as a fighter training base during World War II. Following the war, legislation was passed that gave the Airport Authority autonomous control to improve the infrastructure and operation of the airport. The airport was granted "Port of Entry" status in 1992 and the Sarasota Bradenton Airport became an international airport.

Southwest Florida International Airport
www.flycpa.com

The Southwest Florida International Airport is responsible for meeting the air travel needs of Southwest Florida, including Lee, Collier, Charlotte, Hendry and Glades counties. The Lee County Port authority, established in 1987, is charged with operation and management of the Southwest Florida International Airport. It is an enterprise fund that is completely funded by the revenue generated by the airport. The Southwest Florida International Airport was opened in 1983.

NATURAL

Domain of Well-being:
NATURAL ENVIRONMENT

In this domain of well-being, we will cover some vital aspects of the natural environment in Sarasota County. The natural environment is a self-sustaining framework on which all other domains of well-being rely. This domain is large, complex and all-encompassing as it includes all things living and non-living, and the relationship between them. The natural environment works to sustain our societies, our built environments, our health, our economic systems, our means of transportation and the general well-being we seek from our communities. The ways in which we build our communities are affected by our natural environment, and the dynamics of our communities, in turn, affect the natural environment.

This domain of well-being will include indicators that tell us about the quality of the air we breathe, the amount of man-made waste we lay to burden back on the earth, and the strength in number of some our native species.

With the indicators in this domain of well-being, we can:

➔ Evaluate the overall health and condition of Sarasota County's natural environment.
➔ Target negative trends to propose action plans and solutions to reverse the trend.
➔ Monitor use of natural resources.
➔ Consider the impact our built and social environments have on the natural environment.

The overall health of the natural ecology in Sarasota County is difficult to sum up in a select few indicators. If there are any indicators that you would like to see included, please let us know and we will add them to the updated Community Report Card!

Residents who participated in our 2013 High Tech High Touch Workshops were particularly interested to see updated data on fresh water consumption and Sarasota County's ecological footprint.

Take a look at what we found!

Domain of Well-being:
NATURAL

The Indicators Included

Sarasota County Average Footprint, in global acres per person

Energy	2.91	**Goods & Services**	7.93
Housing	2.06	**Transportation**	3.99
Food	6.16	**Recycling**	-0.82

TOTAL: 22.23 global acres

Source: Sarasota County Ecological Footprint Assessment (July 20, 2004) *Redefining Progress*

What is a 'Global Acre'?

A 'global acre' is a value of acre that has been adjusted for global average biomass productivity. This allows for comparison across different regions. Not all places are equally productive!

SARASOTA COUNTY'S ECOLOGICAL FOOTPRINT

22.23 global acres per person = 7,336,000 global acres

AVAILABLE BIOLOGICAL CAPACITY

2.1 global acres per person = 701,800 global acres

It would take about 10.5 more Sarasota Counties to "independently" support our county's population. And, we would need five planets to support *just* the human race if the entire global population lived like the residents of Sarasota County. The average American has a per capita footprint of about 23.6 global acres, just above the average for a Sarasota County resident.

The chart below shows the demand that we place on the productivity of our natural environment. This is then juxtaposed to the biocapacity that our natural environment and ecosystem has to offer.

DEMAND		SUPPLY	
Footprint per Sarasota County Resident		Biocapacity per Sarasota County Resident	
	[global acres/capita]		[global acres/capita]
Absorbing CO_2 From Fuel Use	13.2	Land reserved for CO_2	0.2
Growing Crops	3.8	Cropland	0.1
Grazing Animals	0.5	Grazing Land	0.2
Harvesting Timber	3.0	Forest Area	0.5
Accommodating Roads, Houses,	1.1	Built-Up Area	1.1
Fisheries	0.6	Fishing Area	0.1
TOTAL	**22.2**	**TOTAL**	**2.1**

(Reproduced from: Sarasota County Ecological Footprint Assessment (July 20, 2004) *Redefining Progress*

Biocapacity is an important measure. It determines the capacity that a natural environment has to provide natural resources, as well as absorb wastes. We rely on the natural environment not only to provide resources, but to process the excess wastes that are produced by us as we use these resources for production. Natural resources are naturally occurring on the Earth and sourced from the natural environment.

What are some natural resources that we demand and extract from the natural environment?

Perhaps the most demanded natural resources is land. We use land to extract timber, minerals, and oil, for development and growth of our built environments, and for agriculture and food production to sustain our populations. We use water for private use and consumption, but also for use in aquaculture, industry, irrigation, livestock, mining, energy production and for public supply.

Natural resources are used by all living organisms on the Earth. As shown by the figures in the previous graph, we have reached a threshold at which we are consuming natural resources at a pace greater than what our natural environment is able to replenish. As a self-sustaining system, the Earth's natural resources can be limitless. With increased demands of growing societies, our demand for natural resources are creating issues of scarcity as the biocapacity of our natural environments are suddenly limited.

What are some ways we can work to reduce our consumption of natural resources?

REDUCE, REUSE, RECYCLE

Here are some key findings in this domain of well-being:

- ✓ Sarasota County is reaching the highest levels yet in the percent of solid waste that is recycled. In 2012, we recycled 47% of our solid municipal wastes!

- ✓ In the 2014 Christmas Bird Count, a total of 159 species of bird were sighted!

- ✓ Green Sea Turtle Nests jumped from 42 in 2012 to 91 in 2013, a doubling of nest counts!

- ✓ A total of 4,185 Loggerhead Sea Turtles were counted in Sarasota County in 2013. A slight decrease from 2013, but still double the amount of nests recorded in 2009.

- ✓ Air quality in Sarasota is improving every year! In 2013, 85% of our days were of good air quality where air pollution posed little or no health risk. The percent of good days has increased by 38% since 2009. "Moderate" air quality days may pose health risks to a small group of the population.

WASTE

Municipal Solid Waste Disposal per Capita

This indicator shows the municipal solid waste per capita in tons for Sarasota County and the State of Florida. Municipal solid waste includes all commonly thrown away items such as packaging, food waste, grass clippings, sofas, computers, tires, and refrigerators.

Sarasota County has fluctuated pretty consistently around one ton per capita from 2003 to 2012. The State of Florida seems to have tapered off from around and above 1.25 tons per capita from 2003 to 2007, and tapered down closer to 1 ton per capita from 2008 to 2012.

This data shows that in 2012 the average Sarasota County resident threw away 0.96 tons of municipal waste, which is 38.5 pounds a week! While this includes recycled materials and composted yard trimmings, this is still a large volume of waste.
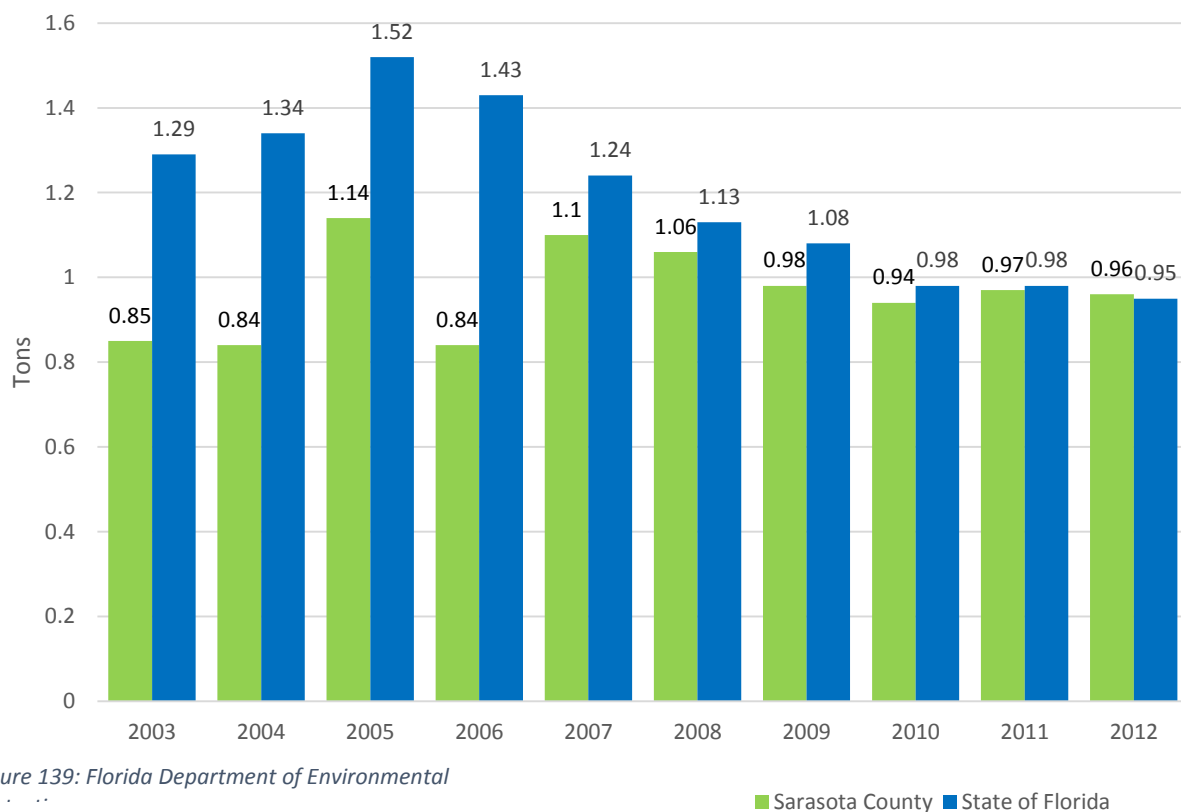
Figure 139: Florida Department of Environmental Protection

■ Sarasota County ■ State of Florida

Why Reduce and Reuse?

By reducing our need to consume more goods, we are simultaneously reducing our demand to harvest natural resources. Thereby, we → reduce pollution → reduce energy use otherwise needed to produce → reduce greenhouse gas emissions contributed to the production process → save ourselves the money by not spending extra money on new items → reduce the amount of waste permanently sent to landfills

WASTE

Municipal Solid Waste Total Recycling Rate,

This indicator displays the percent of municipal waste that is recycled in Sarasota County and the State of Florida from 2003 to 2012. Recycled materials include glass, aluminum, steel, plastic, paper, and more materials that are recycled instead of being incinerated or buried in a landfill.

Figure 140: Florida Charts, Florida Department of Health, Division of Public Health Statistics & Performance Management

It is encouraging to see both county and state recycling rates progressively getting higher. Sarasota County consistently has a h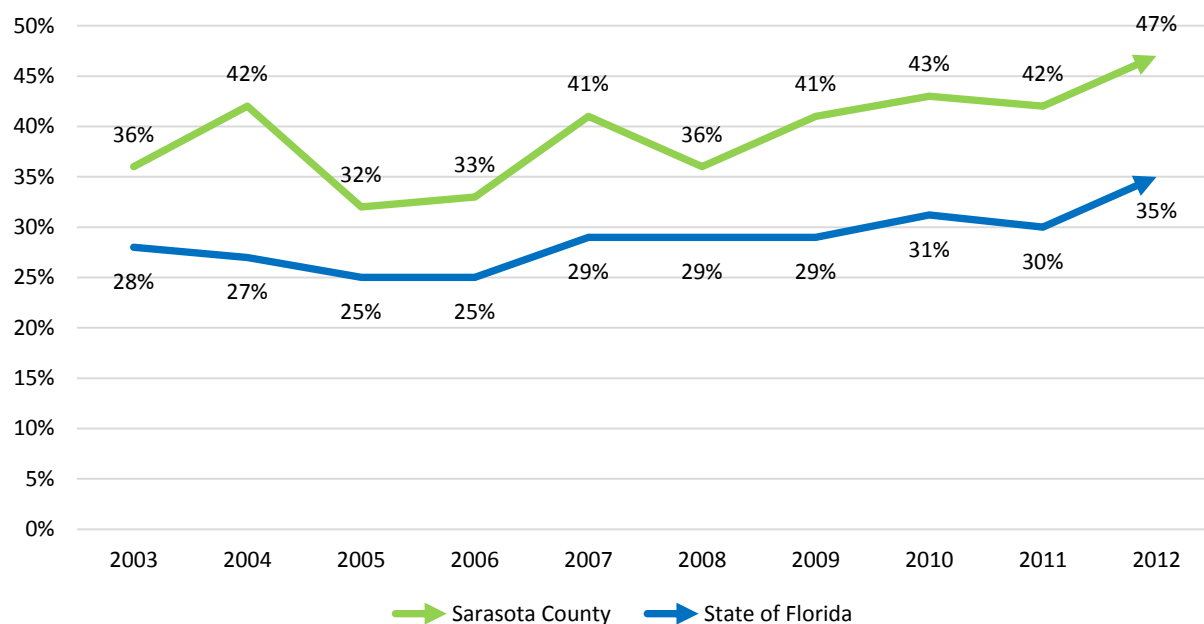igher recycling rate than the state. Since 2008, a constant increasing trend has resulted in a recycling rate of almost 50% in 2012. This is about 12 percentage points greater than the current recycling rate of solid wastes in the State of Florida.

Sarasota County Leads By Example

Our county set the precedent for community recycling back in 1991 when a referendum was voted on by concerned citizens to make commercial recycling mandatory. **Sarasota County has the highest commercial *and* overall recycling rates in the state!** While commercial customers are paying for the collection, many save money by paying less for the remaining waste collection. A swimming pool and deck renovation company was able to save $2,300 in a year by recycling their waste.

(*75% Recycling Goal Report to the Legislature*, Florida Department of Environmental Protection, January 4, 2010.)

Florida has a statewide initiative to achieve a recycling goal of 75% by the 2020!

AIR

Air Quality Levels of Health Concern, Percent of Days per Year

The air quality index is a scale that simplifies the levels of many different air pollutants into a 0-500 number. It is used for reporting daily air quality, telling us how clean or polluted our air is in association with the health effects that one would experience while breathing the air. The five major air pollutants calculated by the Environmental Protection Agency are ground-level ozone, particulate pollution (also known as particulate matter), carbon monoxide, sulfur dioxide, and nitrogen dioxide. Sarasota County has four different sites that measure for these pollutants. The EPA has determined national air quality standards, which are used in the calculation of the air quality index. As seen in Figure 3 below, the higher the value, the more hazardous the air pollution.
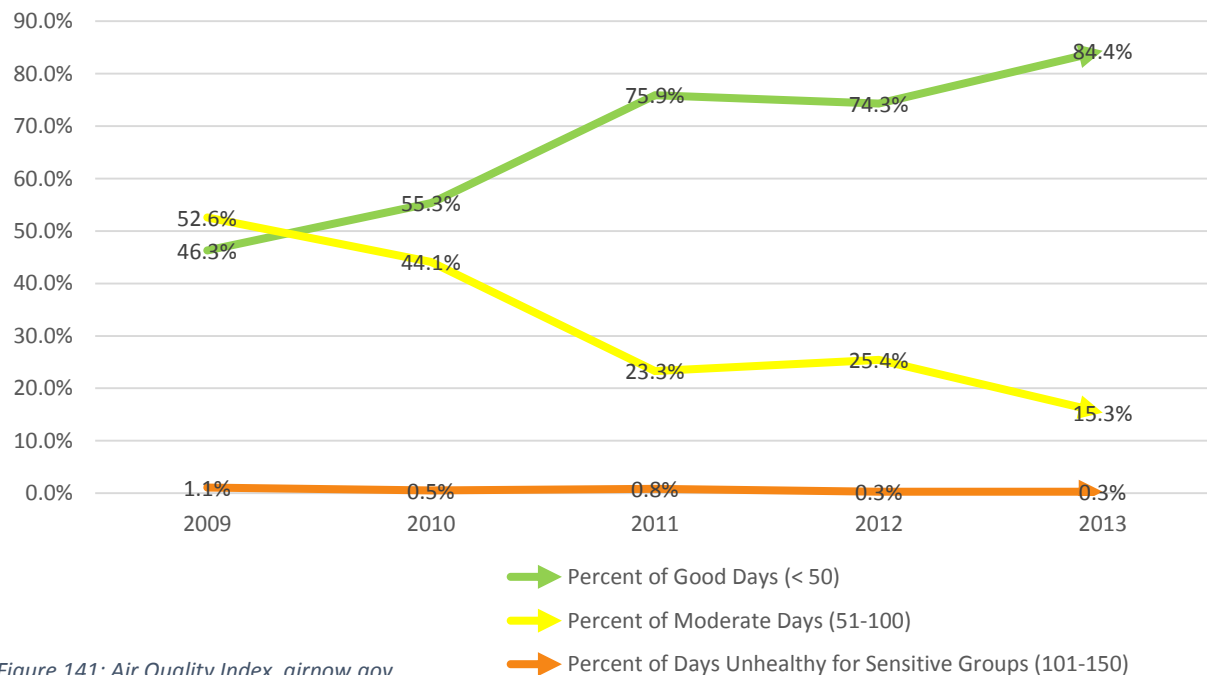
Figure 141: Air Quality Index, airnow.gov

Legend:
- Percent of Good Days (< 50)
- Percent of Moderate Days (51-100)
- Percent of Days Unhealthy for Sensitive Groups (101-150)

The percentage of Good Days, Moderate Days and Days Unhealthy for Sensitive groups was calculated by dividing each value by the total days in the year. A positive trend is observed in the number of AQI good days. Sarasota County residents are very fortunate to live in a community with healthy unpolluted air. In 2013, about 85% of the year exhibited good air quality (308 days!). Sarasota County has had no unhealthy, very unhealthy or hazardous air quality days.

Why do you think air quality has improved?
How can bad air quality affect our everyday lives?

The following chart shows how the EPA translates the measurements of air quality levels:

Air Quality Index Levels of Health Concern	Numerical Value	Meaning
Good	0 to 50	Air quality is considered satisfactory, and air pollution poses little or no risk
Moderate	51 to 100	Air quality is acceptable; however, for some pollutants there may be a moderate health concern for a very small number of people who are unusually sensitive to air pollution.
Unhealthy for Sensitive Groups	101 to 150	Members of sensitive groups may experience health effects. The general public is not likely to be affected.
Unhealthy	151 to 200	Everyone may begin to experience health effects; members of sensitive groups may experience more serious health effects.
Very Unhealthy	201 to 300	Health warnings of emergency conditions. The entire population is more likely to be affected.
Hazardous	301 to 500	Health alert: everyone may experience more serious health effects

Source: Air Quality Index, airnow.gov

Air Quality Trends

Air quality trends have been improving around the nation! Federal and state initiatives, legislation and mandates have improved the overall air quality.

Many improvements in pollution control and energy efficiency have been put in place in many sectors. Particularly, improvements in power plant technology to reduce and manage pollution have decreased particulate and ozone exhausts. Additionally, motor vehicle technology have increased the efficiency with which we burn energy, but have also decreased overall emissions and pollution from motor vehicles.

In Sarasota County, improvements in energy efficiency can be seen with the installments of electric vehicle charging stations and the growing Sarasota County Area Transit (SCAT) Hybrid Bus fleet. Small improvements in different sectors can have greater effects, such as improving overall air quality!

SPECIES

Sarasota Christmas Bird Count (CBC)

What is the Christmas Bird Count?

Christmas Bird Counts (CBC) are a census of birds performed annually in the northern hemisphere during winter. The National Audubon Society administers the CBC by utilizing volunteer birdwatchers to help count the different species of birds found in an area. The Count is conducted over the course of one day, usually in January.

On January 4, 2014, 41 Bald Eagles (22 adults and 19 immatures) and three Eastern Towhees were counted. The CBC recorded the birds in a 15 mile diameter circle, centered roughly at Bee Ridge Rd. and Beneva Rd. Christmas Bird Counts may not be an exact science but they have been going on since 1900 and are a great snapshot of the birds in our community.

Sarasota's Christmas Bird Count (CBC)

41 Bald Eagles

3 Eastern Towhees

159 species of birds totaling over 36,000 individuals

What is an Eastern Towhee? Why are we looking for it?

The Eastern Towhee is native to the Southern parts of the United States. We look at this bird as an indicator species. An indicator species is a species that has specific habitat needs. They are monitored to determine the overall health and well-being of its ecosystem. If the habitat for this indicator species is thriving, well-connected and healthy, the ecosystem as a whole can be assessed to be in good health. Thus, when counts show high populations of an indicators species, we can assume that other species are similarly flourishing as a result of a healthy environment. When counts are decreasing, the ecosystem of this indicator species may be in danger which would risk the population of other native animal species.

Of the 159 bird species identified in the 2014 Christmas Bird Count, two species are Federally-designated Endangered, one species is Federally-designated Threatened, nine species are a State Species of Special Concern, and four species are State-designated Threatened. The chart below reveals the type of bird, their designation, and the number counted during the latest Christmas Bird Count.

Federally-Designated Endangered_____
Wood Stork: 250
Grasshopper Sparrow: 3

State Species of Special Concern_____

Brown Pelican: 700	Limpkin: 83
Snowy Egret: 360	Roseate Spoonbill: 42
Little Blue Heron: 250	Marsh Wren: 3
Tricolored Heron: 210	American Oystercatcher: 3
Black Skimmer: 45	White Ibis: 1,943
Reddish Egret: 1	

State-Designated Threatened_____

Sandhill Crane: 300	Snowy Plover: 21
American Kestrel: 47	

SPECIES

Green Sea Turtle Nests

The Green Sea Turtle is one of seven species of sea turtles and was listed under the Endangered Species Act (ESA) in 1978. The Green Sea Turtle population found in the breeding colonies around Florida and Mexico's Pacific coast are considered endangered, while all other populations still carry the official designation of 'threatened'. (NOAA Fisheries, Protected Species)

This graph shows the total number of recorded green sea turtle nests in Sarasota County, Charlotte County, and Manatee County.
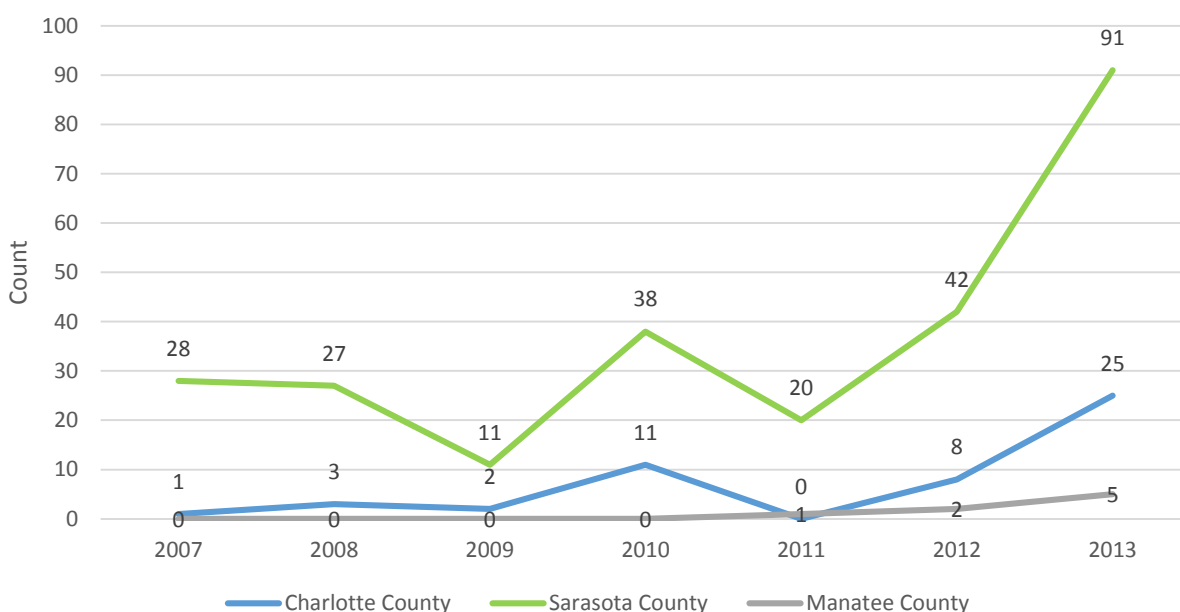

Figure 142: FWC Fish & Wildlife Institute, Statewide Nesting Beach Survey Program

Sarasota County has been working to improve conditions for Green Sea Turtle nesting. As the data shows, Sarasota County has consistently seen a greater number of Green Sea Turtle nests than neighboring coastal counties. This can be explained in part by the conservation efforts of county mandates and independent organizations. At the same time, Sarasota County beaches have historically been nesting grounds for sea turtles. As such, sea turtles born on our beaches return to those same beaches to lay their own eggs. Additionally, Sarasota County may have a greater number of volunteers counting turtle nests than in neighboring coastal counties.

While the trend line for nesting marine turtles provides a positive view, studies of such long-lived species must be viewed over a longer time horizon. In the case of marine turtles, considerable variation can be found from year to year since females nest in alternate years, skipping one or two years between nesting episodes. This alternating pattern of nesting can cause ups and down from year to year, while the overall vitality of the nesting population is revealed over decades as opposed to years.

Sarasota County saw a total of 91 Green Sea Turtle nests in 2013!

SPECIES

Loggerhead Sea Turtle Nests

The Loggerhead Sea Turtle has a greater population than the Green Sea Turtle. The Green Sea Turtle has a total of two listed populations while the Loggerhead Sea Turtle has nine distinct population segments: Mediterranean Sea, North Indian Ocean, North Pacific Ocean, Northeast Atlantic Ocean, Northwest Atlantic Ocean, South Atlantic Ocean, South Pacific Ocean, Southeast Indo-Pacific Ocean, and Southwest Indian Ocean. Of the nine population segments, five are endangered and four are threatened.
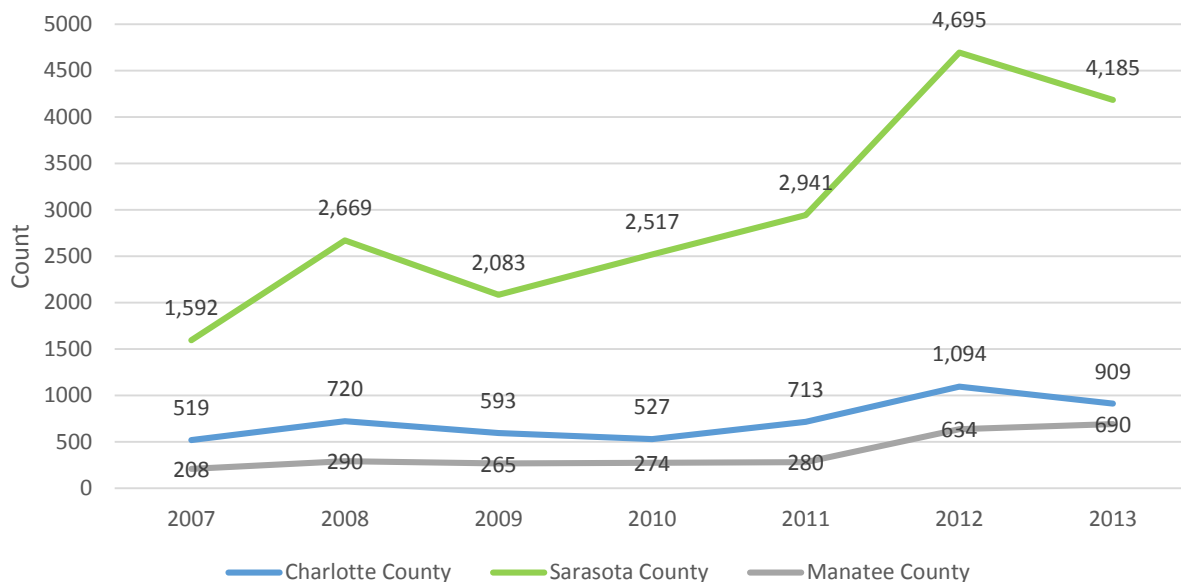

Figure 143: FWC Fish & Wildlife Institute, Statewide Nesting Beach Survey Program

Similar to the Green Sea Turtle cyclical nesting patterns, the Loggerhead Sea Turtle will spend years maturing and traveling through the oceans before returning to their hatching sites to build nests of their own. Most Loggerhead Turtles will travel more than five thousand miles from the times they are born until they are mature enough to nest! As mentioned previously, a longer time horizon would provide a more accurate presentation of the health and numbers of the Loggerhead Sea Turtle.

(NOAA Fisheries, Protected Species)

Sarasota County and independent organizations work hard to create good conditions for sea turtles. By implementing policies to reduce lighting on the coast line and protecting nests, the thousands of turtles hatched on our beaches this year will come back to our county beaches many years in the future to lay their own eggs. Sarasota County beaches have historically been turtle nesting grounds and may account for the greater amount of nests when compared to neighboring coastal counties.

In 2013, Sarasota County recorded over 4 thousand Loggerhead Turtle nests!

Beaches

National Healthy Beaches Campaign

The National Healthy Beaches Campaign is a scientifically based beach certification program, and is the first of its kind! The certification process evaluates beaches based on a set criteria, every one of which the beach must meet. This program has an overall goal to ensure the safety of public beaches for beachgoers, but also to maintain the health and environmental integrity of the beaches themselves. The criteria include:

- Water Quality
- Sand Quality
- Dangerous Water Conditions (for swimming beaches only)
- Overall Beach Safety
- Environmental Quality and Management
- Services
- Participation in Pro-Active Beach Campaigns

**Sarasota County currently has four beaches listed as a National Healthy Beach!
Can you guess which ones they are?**

The beaches listed as certified "Healthy Beaches" in 2012 are:
Caspersen Beach, Lido Beach, Siesta Beach, and Venice Beach.

Source: National Healthy Beaches Campaign (NHBC), *healthy beaches.org*

The Health Department reports that there have been no mandatory beach shut-downs in Sarasota County since October of 2012!

Water quality has been consistently good and safe for recreational activities!

Florida-Friendly Landscapes

The Florida-Friendly Landscapes Program is designed to recognize those yards that embrace environmentally friendly gardening and landscapes. Florida Friendly yards that are in harmony with the natural environment are low maintenance, use less water for irrigation, and do not require excess fertilizer. The Program is based around 9 Principles and qualifying yards must score a certain number of points to achieve this honorary certification.

The nine principles are:

1. Right Plant, Right Place
2. Water Efficiency
3. Fertilize Appropriately
4. Mulch
5. Attract Wildlife

6. Manage Yard Pests Responsibly
7. Recycle Yard Waste
8. Reduce Storm water Runoff
9. Protect the Waterfront

To learn more about each principle, visit: *fyn.ifas.ufl.edu*

The graph below shows the number of certifications awarded to private yards across Sarasota County, by year.

There are a total of 131 yards in Sarasota County with a Florida-Friendly Landscape Certification!

There are also a total of 81 public landscape sites around Sarasota County!

What are the environmental and economic benefits of landscapes that harness the natural environment and ecological systems?
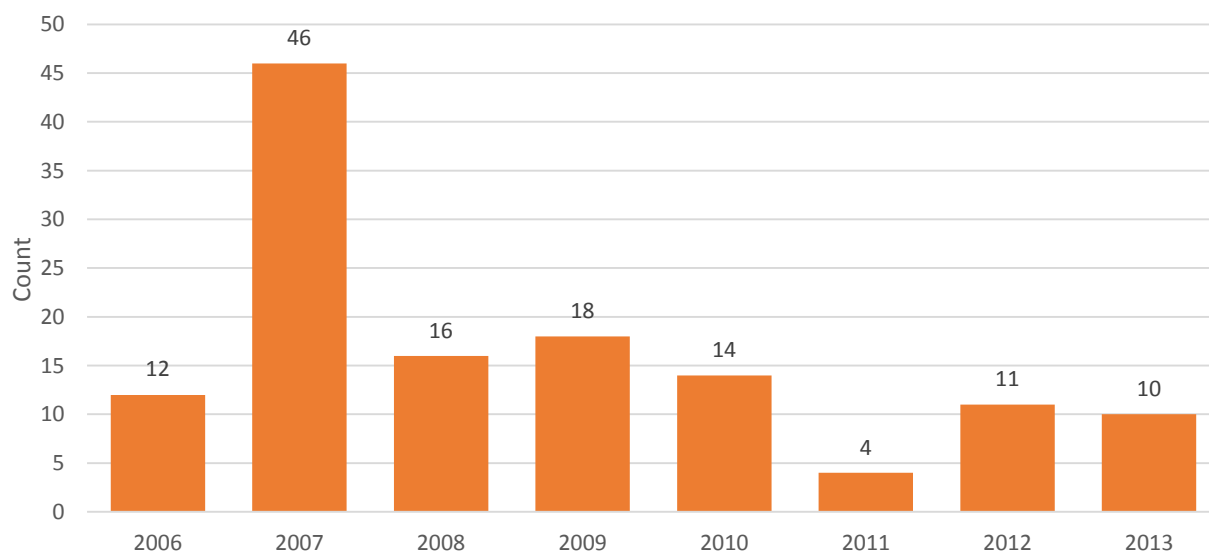

Figure 144: University of Florida/IFAS Extension Sarasota County

WATER USE

Gross Daily Water Use per Capita
Sarasota County (Unincorporated)

The data below shows the gross daily water use per person in Sarasota County. The data is limited to unincorporated Sarasota County and does not include the various municipalities in Sarasota County.

The graph shows that water consumption in the unincorporated Sarasota County has seen a steady decrease from 1994 to the most recent year 2013. In 1994, each resident residing in the unincorporated Sarasota County used, on average, about 93 gallons of water per day. This average has decreased to about 77 gallons per day in 2013 – a 17% decrease!
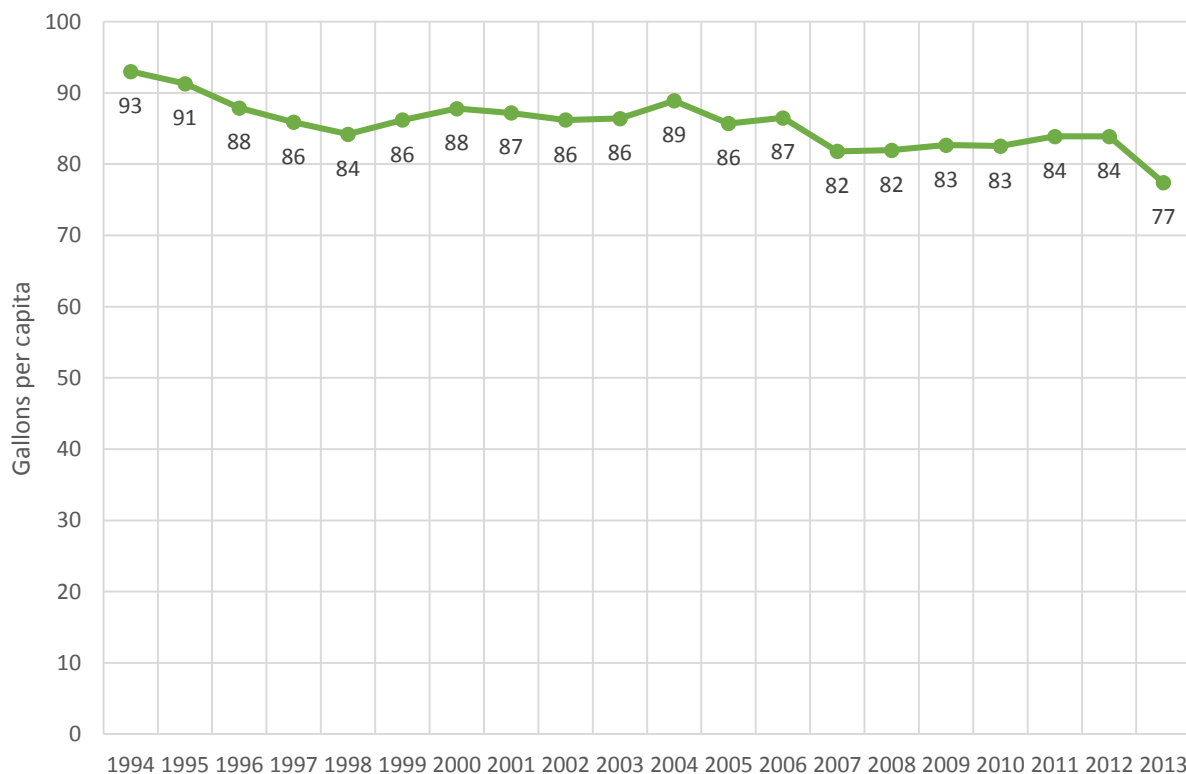
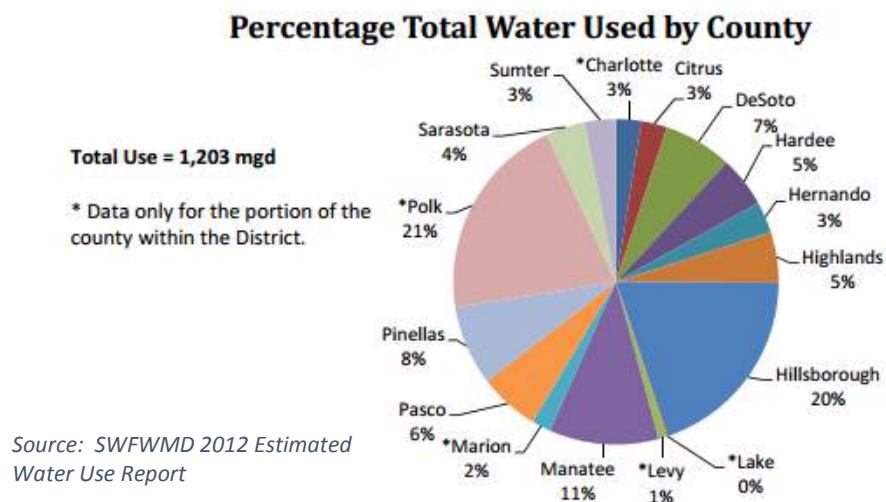*Figure 145: Sarasota County Public Utilities*

WATER USE

This chart below shows the total public water supply for Sarasota County, as reported by the Southwest Florida Water Management District. The data is reported in the millions of gallons used per day (mgd).

This data shows that Sarasota County most recently, in 2012, used on average about 30.6 million gallons of water daily. From 2001 there was a steady increase in gross water use in Sarasota County, from 31.7 mgd to 35.8 mgd in 2006. Following 2008, gross water use decreased from 35.4 to 29.8 mgd in 2009, and even lower to 29.0 mgd in 2010. Since 2010, gross water use has increased by about 1.6 million gallons per day.

Figure 146: SWFWMD Estimated Water Use

Image 1 below shows that Sarasota County is responsible for about 4% of the total water use in the water management district.

Percentage Total Water Used by County

Total Use = 1,203 mgd

* Data only for the portion of the county within the District.

Source: SWFWMD 2012 Estimated Water Use Report

Now that you have reviewed the full set of indicators for the Natural Environment domain of well-being, which indicators strike you as significant?

SCOPE is engaged with both Sarasota County residents and hard data that describe the community. A series of community workshops hosted by SCOPE in 2013 revealed particular interests of the community in the Natural Environment domain of well-being. Residents who participated were interested to see data about fresh water consumption and the overall ecological footprint of Sarasota County. We have reported on this data in this chapter, but let's review those particular indicators:

Ecological Footprint

Sarasota County

22.23 global acres per person **vs.** **2.1 global acres per person**

Resident Ecological Footprint   *Available Biological Capacity*

Sarasota County has an ecological footprint that is about 11 times greater than what the available biological capacity of our natural environment can provide. As we saw earlier in the chapter, the majority of the ecological demand Sarasota County residents are placing on the natural environment is in the form of CO_2 absorption. The burning of fuels and energy is releasing far more carbon dioxide than what our natural environment has the capacity to reabsorb and release as fresh oxygen.

Fresh Water Consumption

Sarasota County

Gross Daily Water Use	1994	**93** gallons per person
(unincorporated Sarasota County)	2012	**84** gallons per person
	2013	**77** gallons per person

Gross daily water use has decreased since 1994 to 77 gallons per person living in the unincorporated Sarasota County in 2013. This 17% decrease is a great trend to be seeing in the data! Unmanaged water consumption can deplete fresh water resources, a vital natural resource to many aspects of our everyday living.

Unadjusted Gross Water Use	2001	**31.7** mgd
(million gallons/day)	2006	**35.8** mgd
	2012	**30.6** mgd

The overall gross water use for the entire Sarasota County has similarly shown signs of an overall decrease over time. This data includes the various municipalities in Sarasota County. We can see that gross water use increased between 2001 and 2006, but then began a decline to 30.6 million gallons per day. This is a positive trend!

TRENDS TO KEEP OUR EYES ON

While the average ecological footprint is by no means beyond the national average of most American residents, it would be a disservice to disregard the data. Our natural environment has the biological capacity to efficiently and sustainably provide for our communities. We are currently extending those services far beyond those means.

The Christmas Bird Count showed that there were a 159 species counted on January 4, 2014. Sarasota County is lucky to have such a diverse ecosystem that can support a variety of different species and wildlife. We want to make sure that the habitats for this diversity in wildlife is protected and maintained to sustain the current populations and provide opportunity for those populations to increase. The natural environment is comprised of many different ecological processes. The roles that many different species play are vital to the health and balance of Sarasota County's natural environment. We hope that future counts for some of the indicator species, like the Eastern Towhee, will be higher to show improvement in habitat well-being.

What are some simple ways to live more sustainably?

o   Try walking or biking to destinations that are a mile or two from you.
o   Readjust your thermostat to save on the energy used to cool or warm your home or office space.
o   If it is a warm day, skip the dryer and line-dry your clothes for the authentic fresh breeze scent!
o   Carpool! Ask a coworker who lives near you for some company on the drive to work and back, and take turns. You'll both save on miles and you'll burn less fuel.
o   Use public transportation!
o   Take a shorter shower. Even just cutting your shower time down by a couple of minutes can save on the amount of freshwater we extract from the environment.
o   Wash your clothes in cold water, rather than using energy to warm the water for your laundry.
o   Try cooking more homemade meals rather than eating out.
o   Whenever possible and feasible, eat organically grown produce. And try to choose local, seasonal produce.
o   Or, better yet, try your hand at a little garden or participate in a community garden!

What are your 'green' tips and tricks?

"You cannot get through a single day without having an impact on the world around you. What you do makes a difference, and you have to decide what kind of difference you want to make."
- Jane Goodall

POSITIVE TRENDS

This domain of well-being has many indicators that have positive trending data.

- Municipal Solid Waste Total Recycling Rate
  The total recycling rate in Sarasota County is increasing year after year. In 2012, 47% of the county's solid wastes were recycled, an 11 percentage point increase from 2003! Sarasota County is a leader in the State of Florida for recycling efforts.

- Air Quality Levels are consistently improving.
  Thanks to local, state and national efforts, air quality has been on the upward trend for many years. Air quality measurements in Sarasota County has seen a 38% improvement in the 4 years between 2009 and 2013. In 2013, 84.4% of the days of the year measured as "good days" that pose no health concerns to residents.

- Counts of sea turtle nests in Sarasota County are showing exciting numbers!
  Green Sea Turtles are returning to their Sarasota County nesting beaches. In 2013, a total of 91 Green Sea Turtle nests were reported. For the same year, Loggerhead Sea Turtles had more than 4,000 nests on Sarasota County beaches – and those are just the ones that were reported!

We encourage your own analysis of these indicators. Our intent is to spark conversation about issues you see in the data and to inspire action that comes from our community.

What indicators did we not include that would best show the overall health of Sarasota County? Please let us know!

SCOPE

About Our Sources

Florida Department of Environmental Protection
dep.state.fl.us

The Florida Department of Environmental Protection is responsible for overseeing various aspects of the State of Florida's natural environment. There are three primary areas, each of which have their specific functions. The Department's regulatory programs are responsible for regulating air pollution, water pollution, the use of wetlands and shorelines, and the siting of hazardous waste facilities, power plans and natural gas pipelines. Second, the land and recreation programs work to manage the state's public lands, recreation areas, greenways, trails, and manage wildlife areas. Additionally, they are tasked with restoring the state's pristine Everglades ecological system. The third area in which the FDEP functions is involved with planning and management. The FDEP surveys Florida's geological resources, manages water resources, controls invasive plants, and takes charge of reclamation processes of mined land.

Florida CHARTS, Department of Health, Division of Public Health Statistics & Performance Management
floridacharts.com

"The Florida Department of Health works to protect, promote & improve the health of all people in Florida through integrated state, county, & community efforts."

- FL Dept. of Health

The Florida Department of Health's Division of Public Health Statistics and Performance provide this online tool called CHARTS (The Florida Community Health Assessment Resource Tool Set). This database contains collected data around a wide range of indicators. Users can compare indicators between counties, control for certain variables, download data tables and graphic visualizations. CHARTS was designed with the intention of providing accessible public data and aiding in community health assessment.

Air Quality Index
airnow.gov

The Air Quality Index is a measure of the overall quality of the air to determine the extent to which the degree of air pollution can pose harmful health risks to citizens. The Index is also used to communicate forecasted air quality. Various government agencies use this index as a measure for air pollution.

Fish and Wildlife Research Institute, Statewide Nesting Beach Program

myfwc.com/research

The Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission is a government agency with law enforcement power that is charged with managing and regulating the state's fish and wildlife resources. In addition to enforcing various laws in relation to wildlife protection, the FWC has a staff researchers to further knowledge of the state's fish and wildlife. Besides various administration offices, the FWC works in several divisions: Wildlife Research Institute, Hunting and Game Management, Habitat and Species Conservation, Freshwater Fisheries Management, Marine Fisheries Management, and Law Enforcement.

Sarasota County Public Utilities

scgov.net/utilities

The Sarasota County water services uses a very comprehensive approach to water management. The goal is to balance the water demands from the public with the sustainability needs of the environment. The county water services try to coordinate water supply, flood protection, water quality and natural systems. The outcomes that they strive for are fishable and swimmable waters for residents, safe and sustainable water supplies, and an optimal level of flood protection. The County has about 80 thousand water connections, 65 thousand sewer connecters, and 3 thousand reuse connections.

Southwest Florida Water Management District

swfwmd.state.fl.us

Florida state legislation has delegated five districts in the state of Florida to protect, manage and ensure the health and sustainability of the state's natural water resources. The Southwest Florida Water Management District (SWFWMD) includes water systems in 16 counties, including Sarasota County. The SWFWMD is involved in large flood protection projects and has responsibilities including water supply, maintaining water quality and ecological systems, such as rivers, lakes wetlands and uplands.

CULTURAL / RECREATION

Domain of Well-being:
Culture & Recreation

Sarasota County prides itself on being a part of the 'creative coast' – a hub for cultural and recreational activities that entice and engage both county residents and visitors from all over the world! Culture and recreation is a vital component to a vibrant and active community, one that Sarasota County has embraced and indulged itself in – from boating, to trails, theaters, world class arts, and museums.

The chosen indicators encompass many aspects of culture and recreation in Sarasota County. We have included data that show availability and participation in culture and recreation, as well as the impact that culture and recreation has on Sarasota County.

These culture and recreation indicators are used to:

➔ Gauge the accessibility of cultural and recreational activities in Sarasota County
➔ Assess the growth and stock of cultural and recreational activities for residents
➔ Consider the impact and importance of this domain in the community

While we have included many indicators, we are sure that there are yet many more out there that can assist the community in measuring the value and impact of culture and recreation in Sarasota County. By understanding this data, we can work to assess where there are gaps in accessibility and availability of culture and recreation to County residents.

What are some culture and recreation indicators you would recommend for inclusion in the next Community Report Card?

Following last year's High Tech High Touch Community Workshops and community meetings, resident participants expressed interest in data points revolving around public parks, recreational trails, and access to nature and green spaces. More specifically, residents were interested to see how much Sarasota County was investing in our public parks. We have updated these figures and included many more indicators to fulfill these interests!

Domain of Well-being:
CULTURE & RECREATION

The Indicators Included

Key Findings

- ✓ The number of athletic fields managed by Sarasota County Parks and Recreation has almost doubled in the last decade.

- ✓ Sarasota County Parks and Recreation have a total of 5,531 developed acres – an increase of more than 700 acres since 2002.

- ✓ The number of public parks managed by Sarasota County Parks and Recreation has doubled to 140 in the last decade. This is *not* including city-owned and operated parks!

- ✓ The number of county-owned playgrounds has steadily increased over the last decade, from a total of 26 in 2002, to a total of 42 in 2013.

- ✓ There is a total of roughly 35,340 acres protected by the Environmentally Sensitive Lands Protection Program of Sarasota County. This is not including Myakka River State Park or Oscar Scherer State Park.

- ✓ In 2011, event attendees to nonprofit arts and cultural organizations in Sarasota County spent about $50.7 million in the local economy – not including event admission!

Park Access

Sarasota County has many public parks available for Sarasota County residents to explore, wander, meander, adventure, relax, daydream or socialize. More than likely, there is a park in or close to your community!

The average distance of Sarasota County's resident population from a park is about 2.21 miles, but just over 50% of county's population lives within one mile of a public park entry point.

What is your favorite community park?

28.3%
Population within ½ mi of Park Entry Points

11.6%
Population within ¼ mi of Park Entry Points

Source: Sarasota County, Land Protection and Access, ESRI Forecasts for 2013

Recreation

This graph shows the total number of recreational boats that have been registered in Sarasota County. This does not include the number of boats that have been registered under a commercial license.

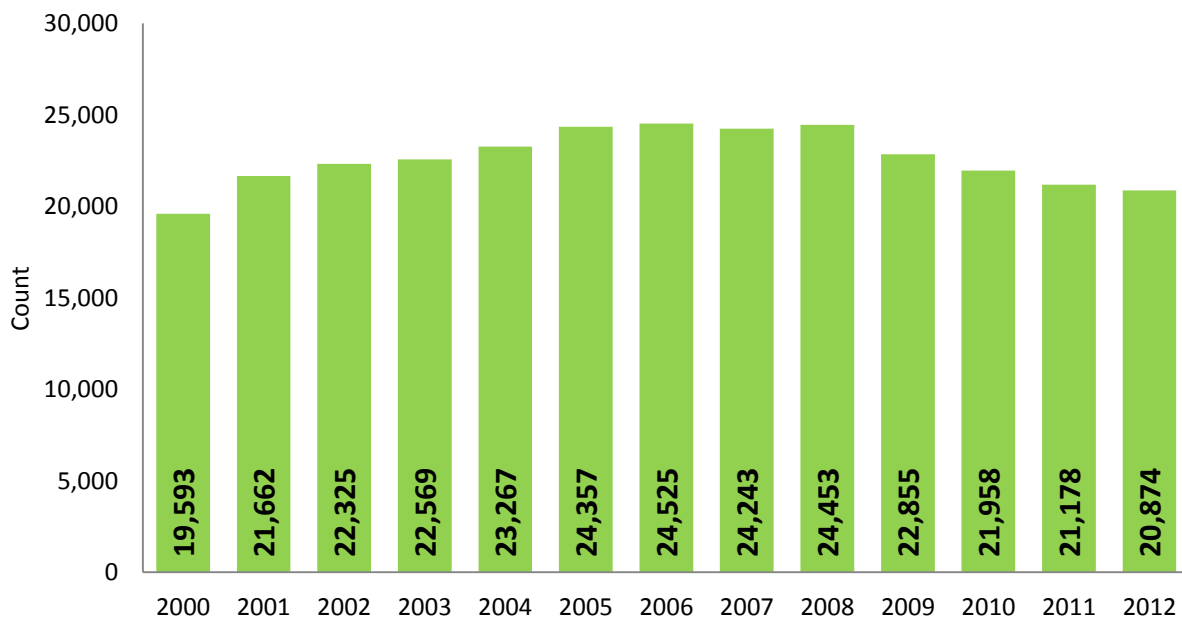## 5 Recreational Boats per 100 people in Sarasota

Figure 147: Florida Department of Highway Safety and Motor Vehicles, Vessel Registration and Titles, Vessels Registered in Florida

The most recent data available in 2012 showed that almost 21 thousand recreational boats were registered in Sarasota County. The data shows that this is part of a consistent decrease since 2005-2008 when the total registered recreational boats averaged just over 24 thousand. This time period from 2005-2008 also represents a general peak in registered recreational boats in the time frame provided by the data. In 2000, the total number of registered recreational boats was just under 20 thousand.

In 2012, there were about 5 registered recreational boats in Sarasota County for every hundred people. In Florida, the average was about 4 registered recreational boats for every hundred people. In 2010, both the state and the county saw a decrease of about one recreational boat per 100 people.

What is your favorite fun-in-the-sun water activity?

Recreation

Beach attendance is calculated from reports of observations by lifeguards on guarded beaches. In 2013, there were an estimated 4.46 million beach attendees reported. Since Siesta Beach was selected by Dr. Stephen Leatherman as the Number 1 beach in the world in 2011, we were surprised to see a reported decrease of about 2 million beach-goers from the previous year. While this decrease in beach attendees *could* be accounted for by an exceptionally rainy season that provides inclement weather conditions for beach attendance, or other factors such as algae blooms or red-tide, we could find no direct correlation that explains the reported decrease.
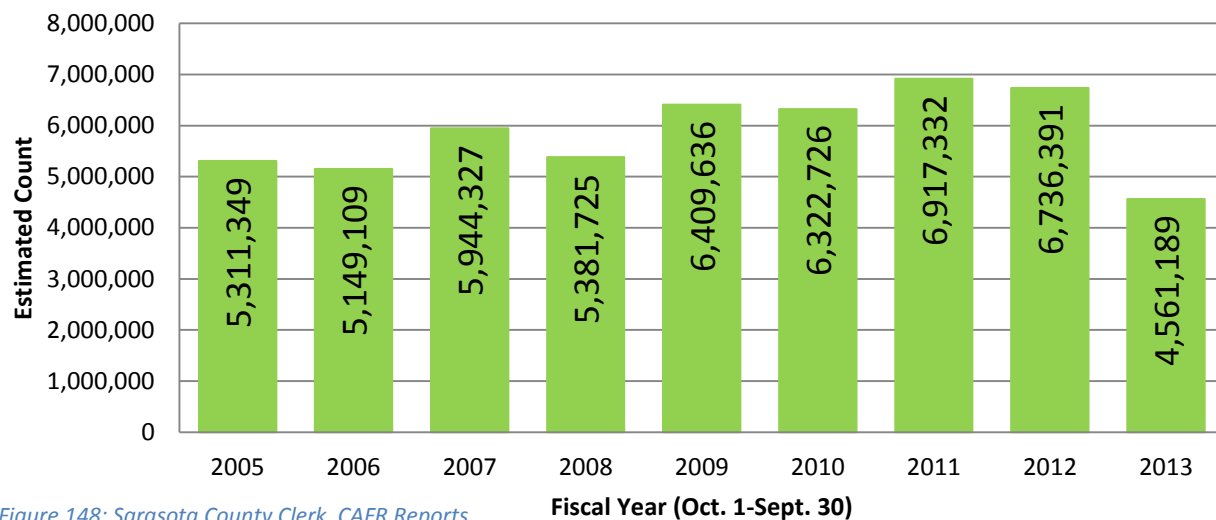

Figure 148: Sarasota County Clerk, CAFR Reports

In the time frame provided by the data, 2011 showed the highest beach attendance, at almost 7 million beachgoers. This was the end of a general increasing trend in beach attendance since 2005 where attendance was estimated to be 5.3 million. Please note that these figures are based on observation and guesstimating as method and are subject to observation errors. Changes in lifeguard reporting methods may differ and account for irregularities in the data.

The sudden decrease in beach attendees during the 2013 fiscal year could also be accounted for by algae blooms in the Gulf Coast as well as higher than averages days of rain fall. The Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission does not report aggressive algal blooms in the latter months of 2013, although there were at least medium or high levels of red tide measured from January to April, 2013. A recent evaluation of red tide data collected from 1954 to 2006 show that there is no evidence to suggest that frequency and intensity of red tide are increasing; however, the data is sparsely collected and cannot warrant definitive conclusions. There were reports of red tide blooms in 2013 that affected wildlife, such as manatees and fish populations in the Gulf. Rainfall in 2013 was slightly higher than average during the summer months, but is comparable to precipitation in 2009. The data is limited by location of precipitation and severity of rain/storms. It is difficult to determine how much precipitation and weather affected beach attendance in 2013.

Source: Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation. Red Tide: Weather Underaround. Weather History Sarasota. Fl

Recreation

Estimated Number of Recreation Program Participants
Sarasota County

This indicator counts the total number of people who participated in recreation programs hosted by the Sarasota County Parks and Recreation Department.
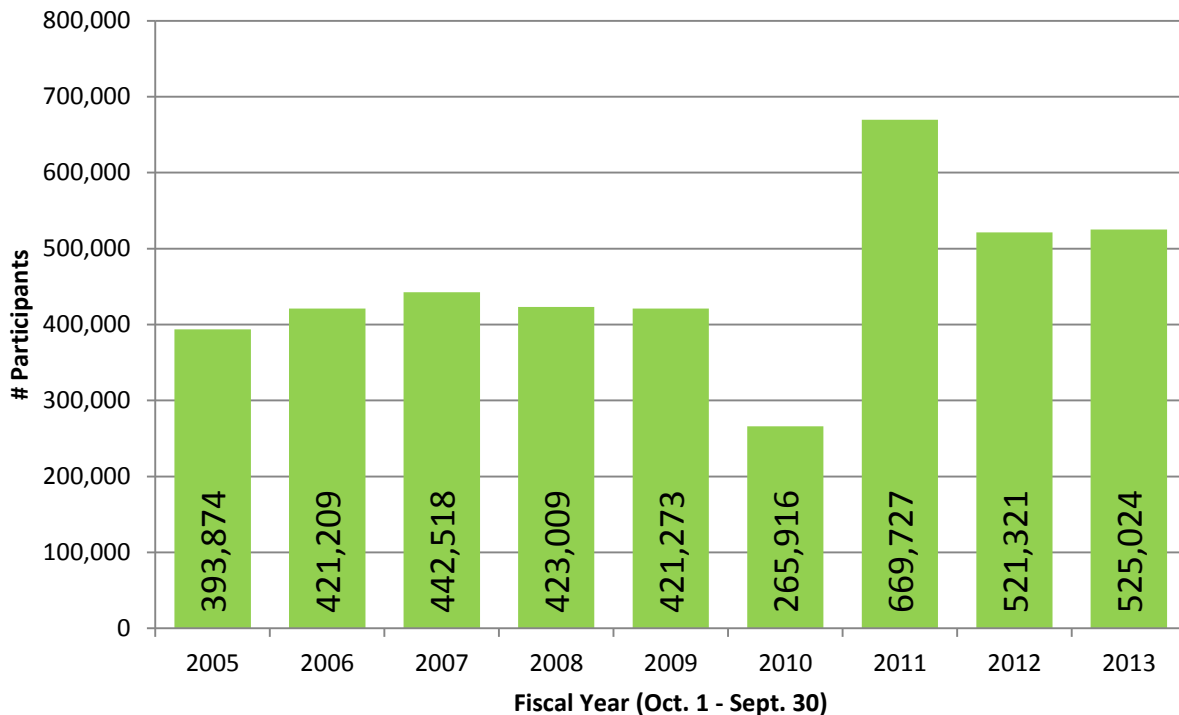

Figure 149: Sarasota County Clerk, CAFR Reports

These numbers represent a count of people attending recreational programs. These numbers do not represent individual registration with a program, but number of visits. If a person attends a 3-day program, they will be counted three times.

In 2013, the total number of recreation program participants was counted at about 525 thousand, a slight increase from 2012 where just over 521 thousand participants were reported. From 2005 to 2009, the average number of recreation program participants staggered around 400 thousand. In 2010, however, there was a dramatic decrease to almost 266 thousand participants. This was followed by a dramatic increase in participants to about 670 thousand in 2011. The most recent years of 2012 and 2013 are showing a higher average trend of about 523 thousand.

The number of program participants will be related to the number of programs hosted by Sarasota County Parks and Recreation. Programs hosted by other organizations in county-owned and operated facilities are not included in these figures. The number of programs hosted per year may vary.

Recreation

Number of County-Owned Public Parks
Sarasota County

This indicator shows, over time, the total number of public parks owned by Sarasota County. These figures do not include public parks operated by city municipalities.

A total of 140 public parks are currently owned and operated by Sarasota County Parks and Recreation. While county owned parks steadily increased over time, there were years that marked significant increases. In the three years between 2002 and 2005, a total of 56 parks came under county ownership. Since 2006, an additional 13 parks have been acquired – an average addition of about 2 parks a year between 2006 and 2013. Since 1998, the number of county public parks has nearly doubled, from 72 to 140.
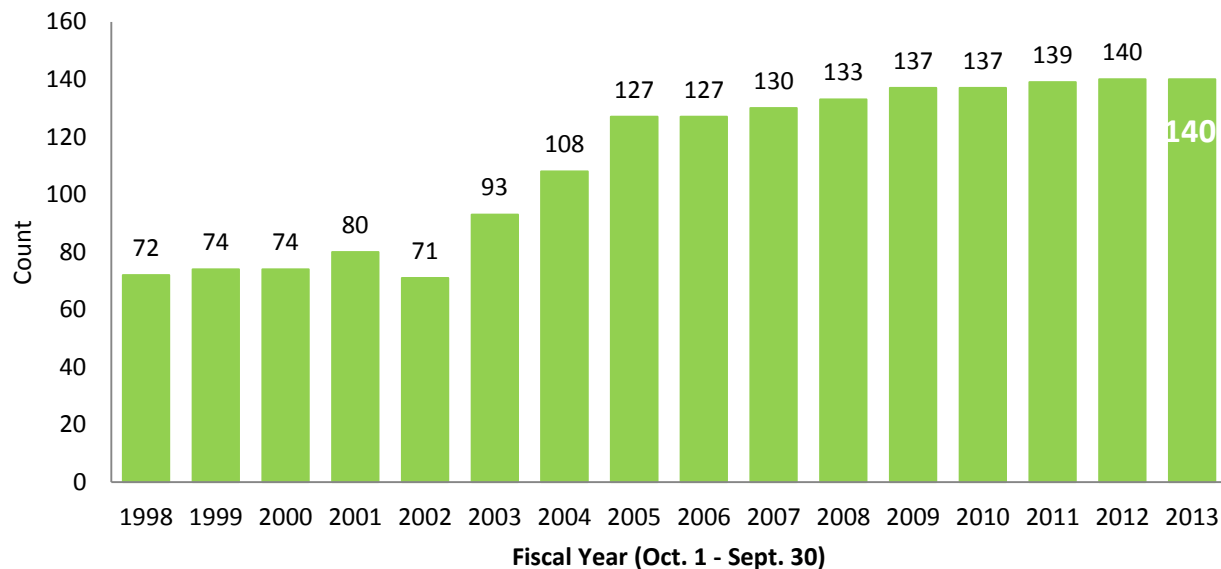

Figure 150: Sarasota County Clerk, CAFR Reports

As of 2013, Sarasota County Parks and Recreation have acquired about 5,531 developed acres for public use.

In 2002, there were about was 4,804 developed acres of parkland under county management. A steady increase in acreage commenced in the following years to a total of about 5,010 developed acres. In 2009, this figure shot up to 5,461 developed acres for public use. About 70 acres have since been acquired to a total of 5,531 developed acres in 2013.

Did you know: access to public parks can show marked improvements on physical, mental, emotional and community health? Are public parks an important part of your daily life?

Recreation

This indicator shows the number of athletic fields that have been acquired over time by the Sarasota County Parks and Recreation department. This data does not include city-owned or -operated athletic fields. There are currently a total of 113 athletic fields under county management for public use.
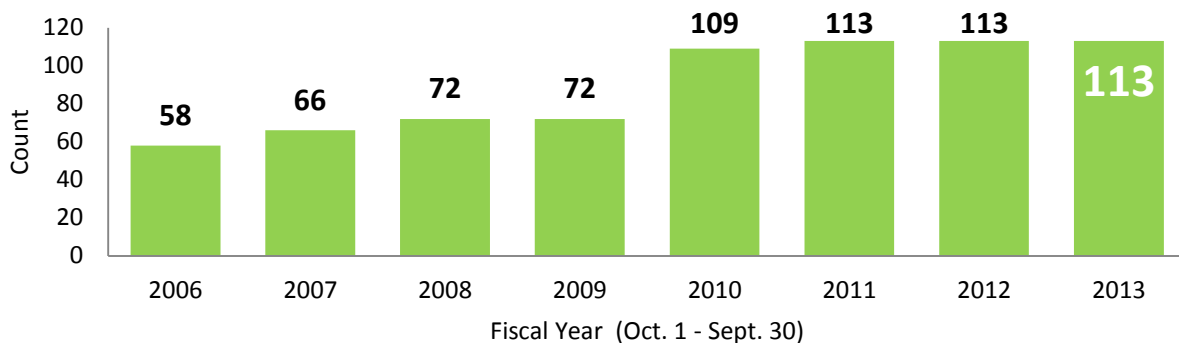

Figure 151: Sarasota County Clerk, CAFR Reports

Number of Playgrounds
Sarasota County

This indicator shows, over time, the number of playgrounds that have come under Sarasota County Parks and Recreation management. The county has almost doubled the number of public playground they manage. The increase in total playgrounds has been steady over the years, climbing by one to two playgrounds a year. The largest addition to county playgrounds was a total of five playgrounds added between 2012 and 2013. There are currently 42 playgrounds under county management for public use.
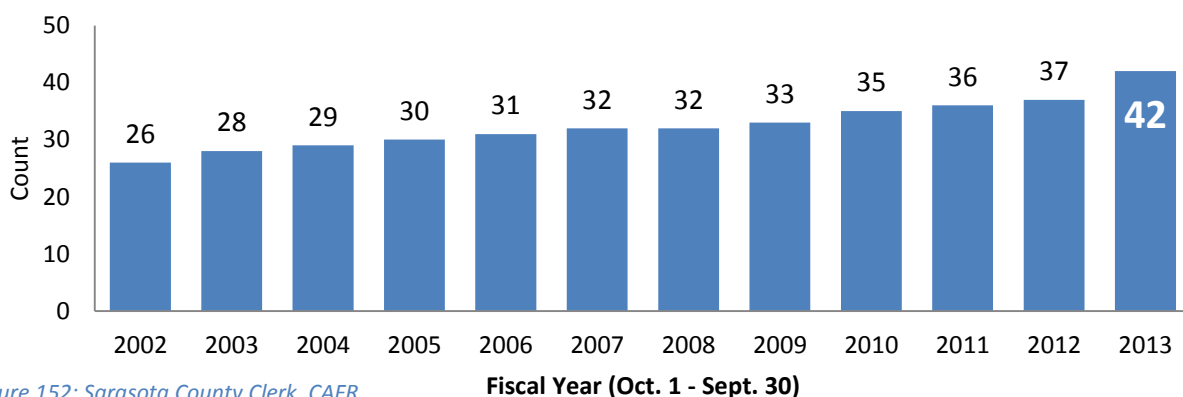

Figure 152: Sarasota County Clerk, CAFR

Sarasota County Parks and Recreation are also responsible for a total of twelve recreation centers!

Recreation

This indicator measures the annual expenditures of Sarasota County Parks & Recreation from 2007 to 2013.
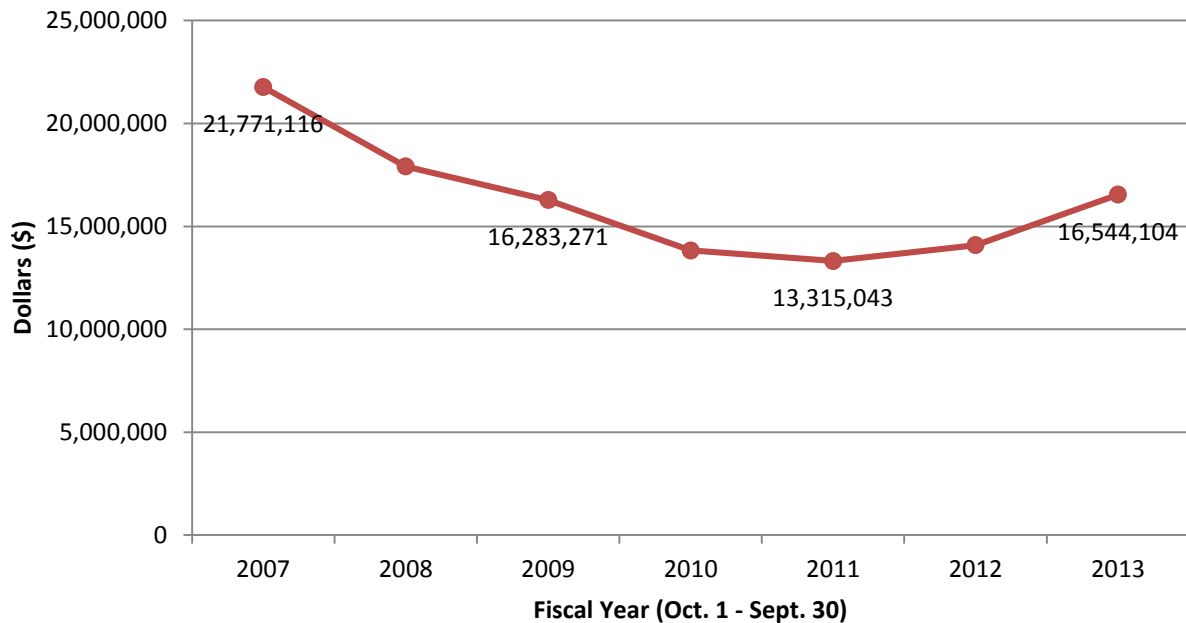
Figure 153: Sarasota County Clerk, CAFR Reports

This graph shows a long term decrease in annual expenditures in Sarasota County's Parks and Recreation Department. In 2007, over $21.7 million was being spent on operating the county parks system. Expenditures decreased for consecutive years until 2011, where almost $8.5 million less was being spent. However, in 2012 expenditures increased and County Parks and Recreation disbursed a total of $16,544,104 in the county park system.

Recreation

This indicator shows the annual expenditures of County Parks and Recreation per person in the Sarasota County population.
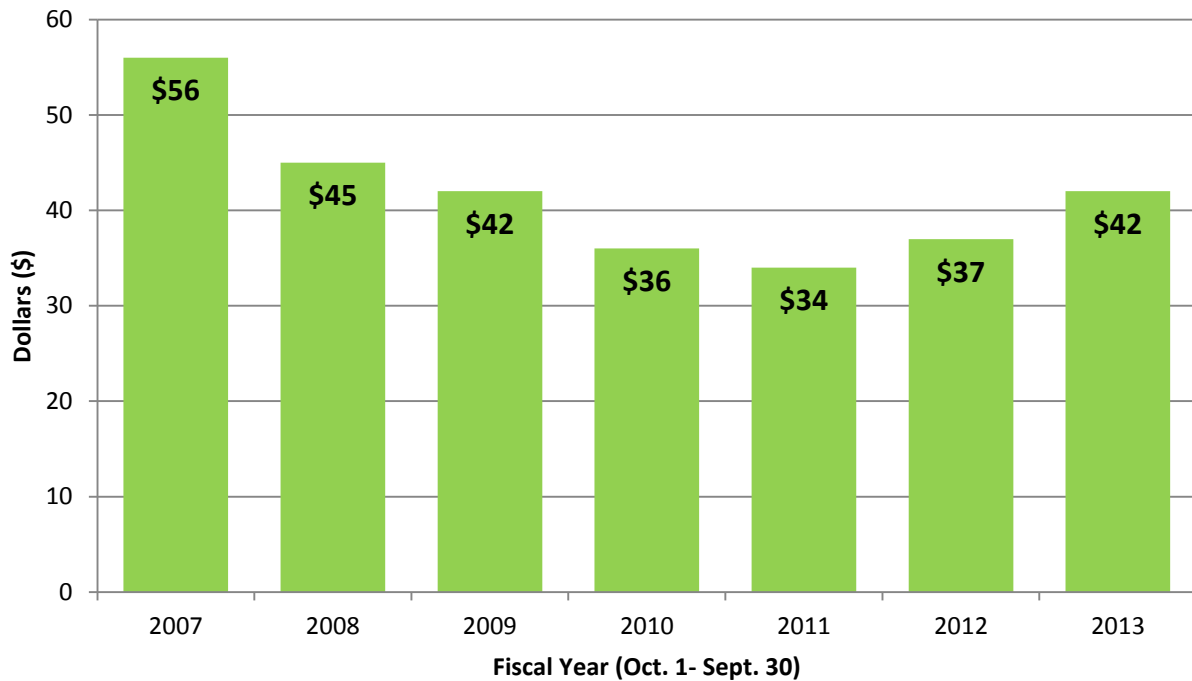
Figure 154: Sarasota County Clerk, CAFR Reports

Similar to the previous data showing total annual expenditures of County Parks and Recreation, there is a distinct decrease in the total expenditure per capita in Sarasota County Parks and Recreation from 2007 to 2013. In 2007, the total expenditure per capita was $56. This amount decreased steadily in the following years to a low point in 2011 at about $34 per capita. The years 2012 and 2013 are marked increases where, in 2013, $42 per person in Sarasota County was being spent in the county parks system.

Legacy Trail & Venetian Waterway Park

User Count

The chart displays the estimated number of users of the Venetian Waterway Park and Legacy Trail in Sarasota County, from January 2012 to December 2013.Use of the Legacy Trail and Venetian Waterway Park range from a total of 110 to 130 thousand users annually. The data shows that trail use was lower in 2013 than the preceding year by a rough total of about 15 thousand users. The report states that this could very easily be due to device error as perceived trail use has increased significantly in the past year – though this is not quantifiable.

Use of the trails is evidently affected by the summer months during which lower counts are reported. Highest trail use is during the cooler months where weather conditions might be more welcoming to outdoor activities. Additionally, trail traffic increases during the cooler months during which seasonal residents return to Sarasota County and take to the trails.
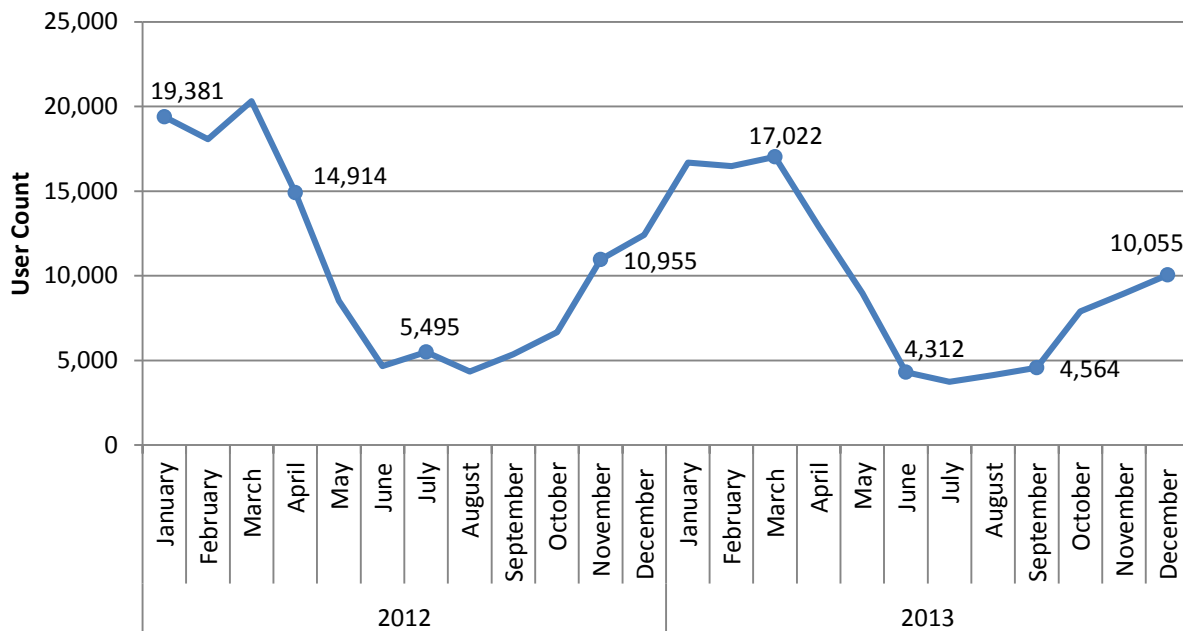
Figure 155: Source Legacy Trail and Venetian Waterway Park: User Count Report, April 2011 – Dec 2013

The data is collected by several infrared sensitive trail counters placed in several locations along the trails. The device calculates general traffic by detecting infrared signatures associated with warm moving bodies. Due to concerns of double counting users as they move along the trail and cross the scope of different counters, a logarithm was created to calculate a more accurate representation of trail usership.

The data is limited to durability of counters and battery life. Due to the infrared methodology of the counters, hot summer months and location may affect the accuracy at which these devices measure trail users. Additionally, the infrared method may not be able to detect fast-moving bodies such as high-speed cyclists.

Benefits of Public Parks

Both public and academic research has proven time and time again the many economic, social, environmental, and personal benefits of public parks.

Economic

- ✓ Homes located near parks have a higher value than homes without easy access to green space.
- ✓ Introducing a new public park or community garden into a community increase the value of property faster than communities that have no easy access to parks or gardens.
- ✓ Public parks can boost tourism in an areas where they attract outside users.

Social

- ✓ Parks improve community cohesion when connectivity between residents increase as they share and interact in these public spaces
- ✓ Some research has suggested that neighborhood involvement with public parks affect juvenile delinquency and overall crime.
- ✓ Community cohesion improves as community residents work together to improve and manage the shared public space.

Environmental

- ✓ Trees and greenery have the ability to filter pollutants out of the air and water, providing cleaner air and cleaner water.
- ✓ Natural landscapes can help prevent soil erosion which affects water quality.
- ✓ Trees and greenery in parks can work to control storm water runoff, sometimes more effectively than man-made infrastructures.
- ✓ Natural spaces in public parks provide habitat for local wildlife.
- ✓ Flora and fauna in natural plants affect carbon sequestration and combats heat island effects that are produced by density of built environments.

Personal

- ✓ Parks also provide safe places for children to play and stay active.
- ✓ Access to safe parks lead to increased physical activity and improved health.
- ✓ Parks improve psychological health because they provide accessibility to less developed spaces and a place to connect with a more natural, stress free environment.

Sources: National Parks and Recreation Association, Trust for Public Land, Active Living Research

Arts

Percent of Student Enrolled in Arts Courses
Sarasota County Public Schools

This indicator shows the percentage of students in all Sarasota County Public Schools that are enrolled in any kind of arts class. This data spans from 2010 to the most recent data available 2014. (Data was obtained in March of 2014). The indicator also divides the data by grade groups – Kindergarten to Grade 5, Grades 6 through 8, and Grades 9 through 12.

The data in this indicator shows that there is a relatively stable ratio of students in elementary, middle and high schools that are enrolled in arts courses. Elementary schools, kindergarten to grade 5, show the highest percentage of students enrolled in arts courses – stable at about 96% from 2010 to 2014. Middle school students, grades 6 to 8, have an art student enrollment rate of about 72%. The years 2011 to 2013 saw a slight decrease to 70% from a high in 2010 of 75%. High school has the lowest percentage of students enrolled in arts courses, although increasing from 2010 from 48% to 53% in 2014.

Not all schools may have consistent requirements for arts courses and are not required by all grades in high school.
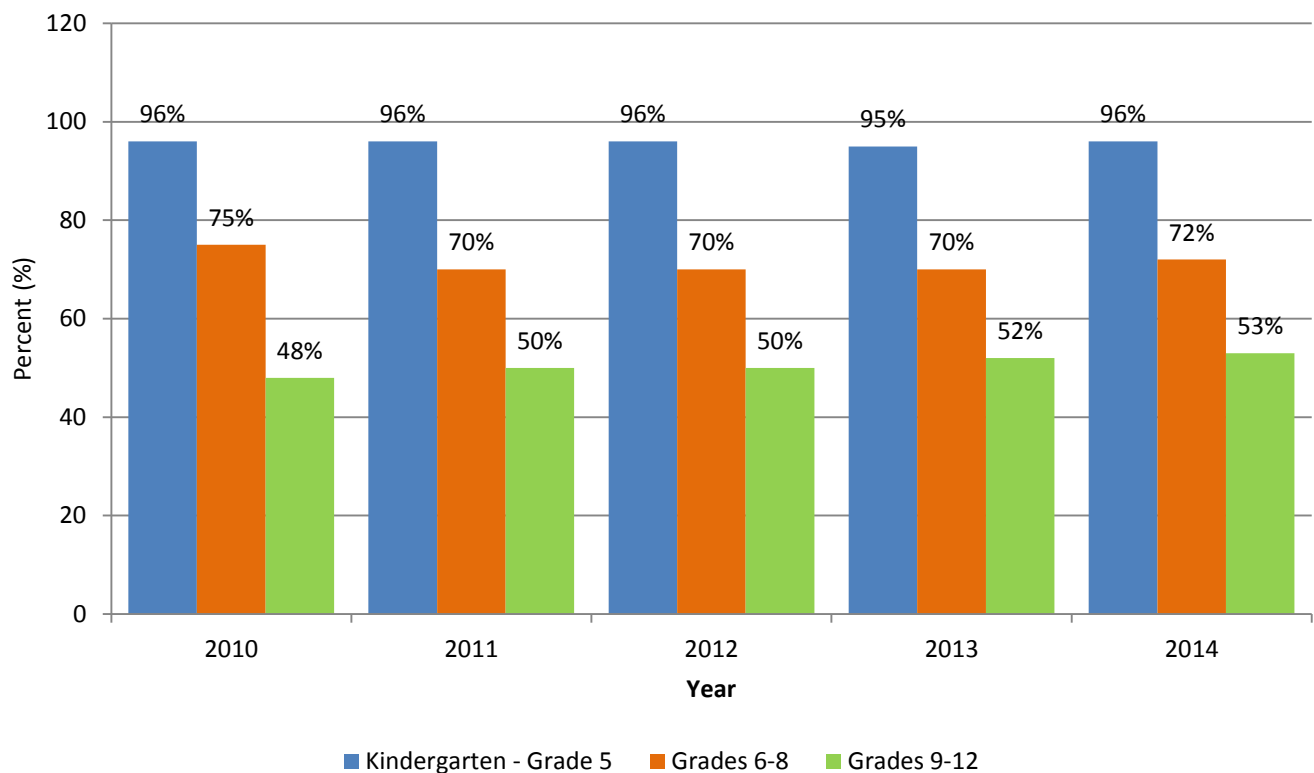

Figure 156: Sarasota County Public Schools, Integrated Instructional Services

Arts

Direct Expenditures
Economic Impacts of Arts & Cultural Organizations

This data looks at the direct expenditures of arts and cultural organizations in Sarasota County. Direct expenditures are the first round of expenditures in the economic cycle and are the source for indirect expenditures – or 'economic ripples'. This data includes both direct expenditures made by local nonprofit organizations, as well as event attendees.

The most recent study report allows us to compare the economic impact of local non-profit arts and cultural organization from 2008 to 2011. During this time period, Sarasota County's arts organizations increased direct expenditures into the economy by almost 37%. In 2011, direct expenditures totaled about $180 million. In comparison with national averages and averages of similar study regions, Sarasota County has a far higher direct expenditure of local arts and cultural organizations. Sarasota County's annual direct expenditures exceed similar study regions by about $102 million dollars.

The methodology of this study does not include the economic impact of for-profit arts and cultural organizations or individual artists, thus the total impact of arts in our community is even greater.
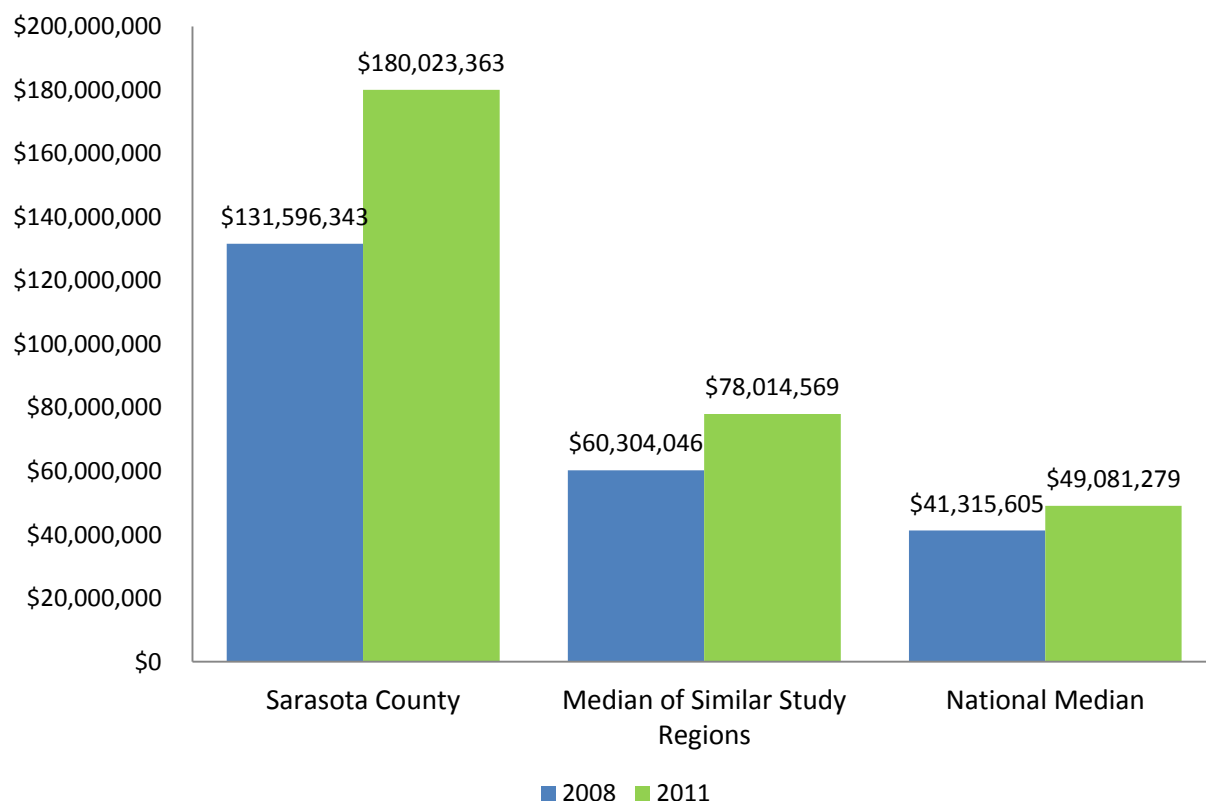

Figure 157: Arts and Economic Prosperity III & IV, Arts and Cultural Alliance in partnership with Americans for the Arts.

Arts

Full Time Equivalent Jobs
Economic Impacts of Arts & Cultural Organizations

This data looks at the number of full time equivalent jobs supported by local nonprofit arts and cultural organizations. The data shows the total number of jobs that are supported by arts and cultural organizations as a result of spending by both organizations *and* audiences.

Full Time Equivalent (FTE) Jobs are measured as a ratio of the total number of paid working hours to the total number of working hours in a week (40 hours). This measure is preferred over total number of employees to more accurately account for both full time and part time workers.

The most recent data shows that there was a strong increase in the number of full time equivalent jobs from 2008 to 2011 in Sarasota County. In 2011, there were 4,579 FTE jobs supported by local nonprofit arts and culture organizations, a 43% increase from 2008. This is much higher than national and similar regions' median number of FTE jobs that are supported by local nonprofit arts organizations. The Sarasota County numbers are almost 200% greater than the national median, and about 70% greater than the median of similar study regions. The number of FTE jobs increased both nationally and in similar study regions.

The methodology of this study does not include the economic impact of for-profit arts and cultural organizations or individual artists.
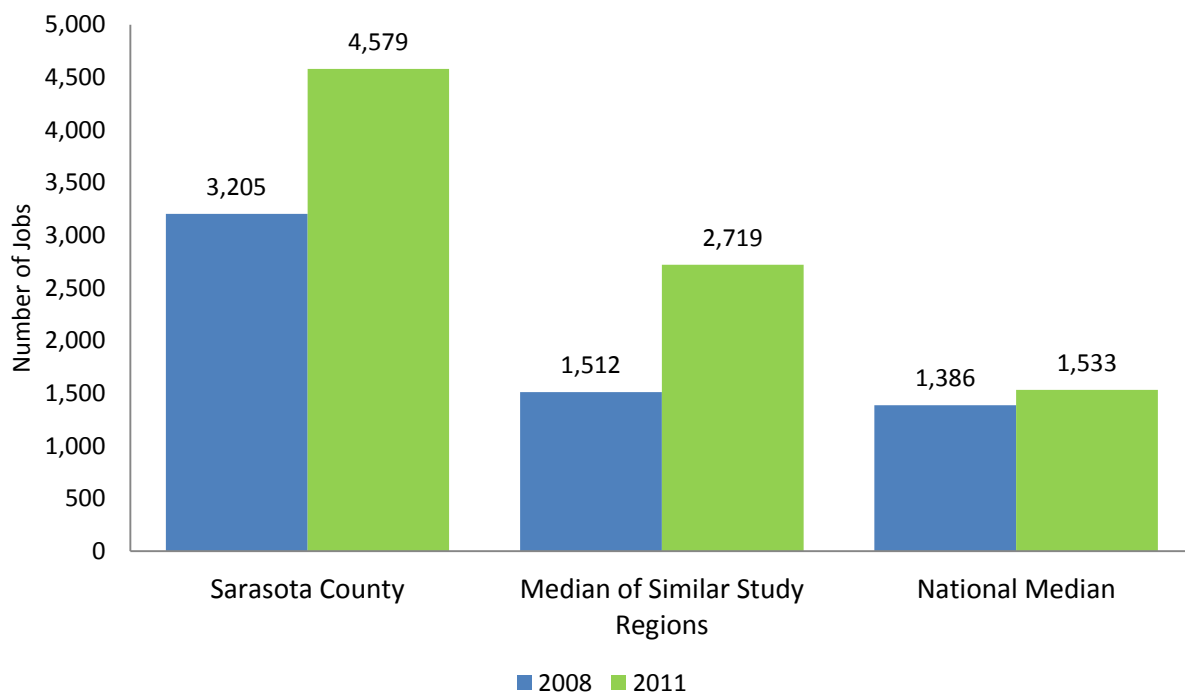

Figure 158: Arts and Economic Prosperity III & IV, Arts and Cultural Alliance in partnership with Americans for the Arts.

Arts

Resident Household Income
Economic Impacts of Arts & Cultural Organizations

This data shows the total annual household income (Personal Income) of employees supported by Sarasota County nonprofit arts and cultural organizations. This is an aggregate number of the total personal income of all supported employees.

Between 2008 and 2011, the most recent study data available, aggregate resident household income of employees supported by local nonprofit arts and cultural organizations increased across the nation. Sarasota County showed a much greater increase than the national average or in comparable study regions. Sarasota County saw an increase from $87.7 million to $134.3 million – a 53% increase. The median aggregate resident household income in comparable study regions is less than half that of Sarasota County, while the median national figures are even less. However, comparable regions saw aggregate resident household incomes double to $63.1 million, while national averages increased by almost $10 million, to $35.1 million in 2011.

By dividing the total resident household income of staff employed by arts and cultural organizations by the total number of full-time equivalent jobs, we can calculate the average annual income per full-time worker. In 2008, a full time worker would have had an annual income of approximately $27.3 thousand. In 2011, this annual income increased by about $3 thousand, to a total of $30.2 thousand.
Please keep in mind that these are merely estimates based on the data provided.

The methodology of this study does not include the economic impact of for-profit arts and cultural organizations or individual artists.
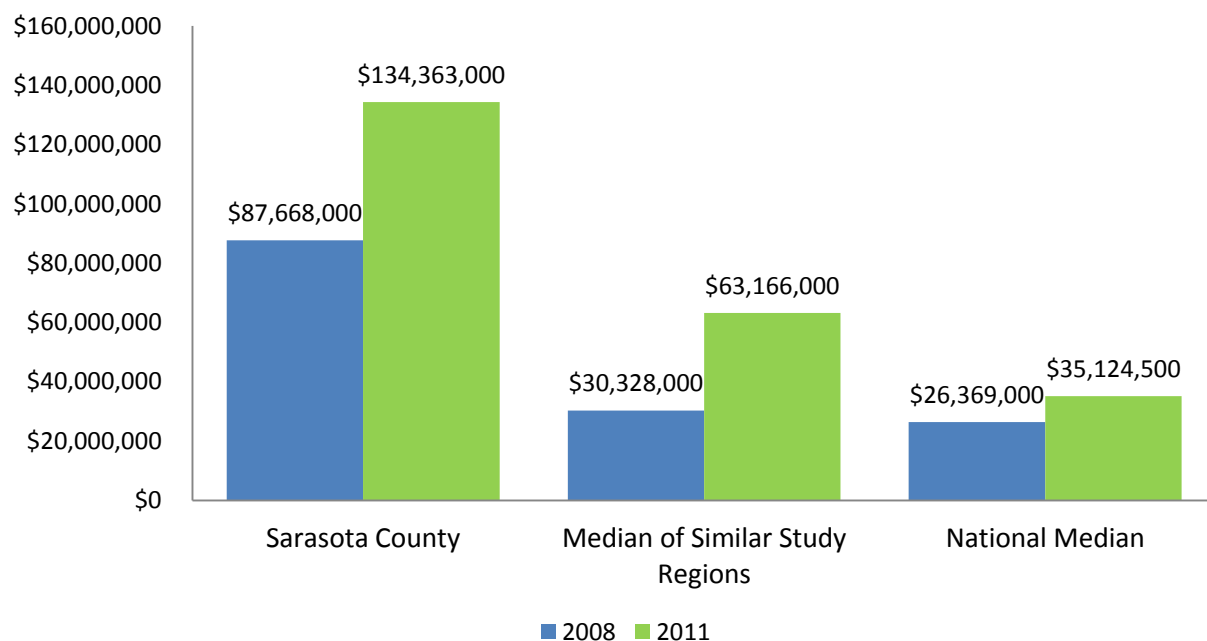

Figure 159: Arts and Economic Prosperity III & IV, Arts and Cultural Alliance in partnership with Americans for the Arts.

Arts

Economic Impacts of Arts & Cultural Organizations

This data shows the local and state government revenue derived from nonprofit arts and cultural organizations in Sarasota County. Government revenue comes from property, sales and income taxes, as well as fees including licenses, utilities, filing and user fees. Local government revenue includes funds to city and county government, schools, and special districts.

Between 2008 and 2011, the government revenue derived from Sarasota County arts and cultural organizations increased at both the local and state level. Local government saw an increase in revenue of 28% from $5.9 million to $7.6 million. Florida State government experienced a 34% increased between 2008 and 2011 in revenue derived from Sarasota County arts and culture organizations – from $9.3 million in 2008 to $12.6 million in 2011.

The methodology of this study does not include the economic impact of for-profit arts and cultural organizations or individual artists.
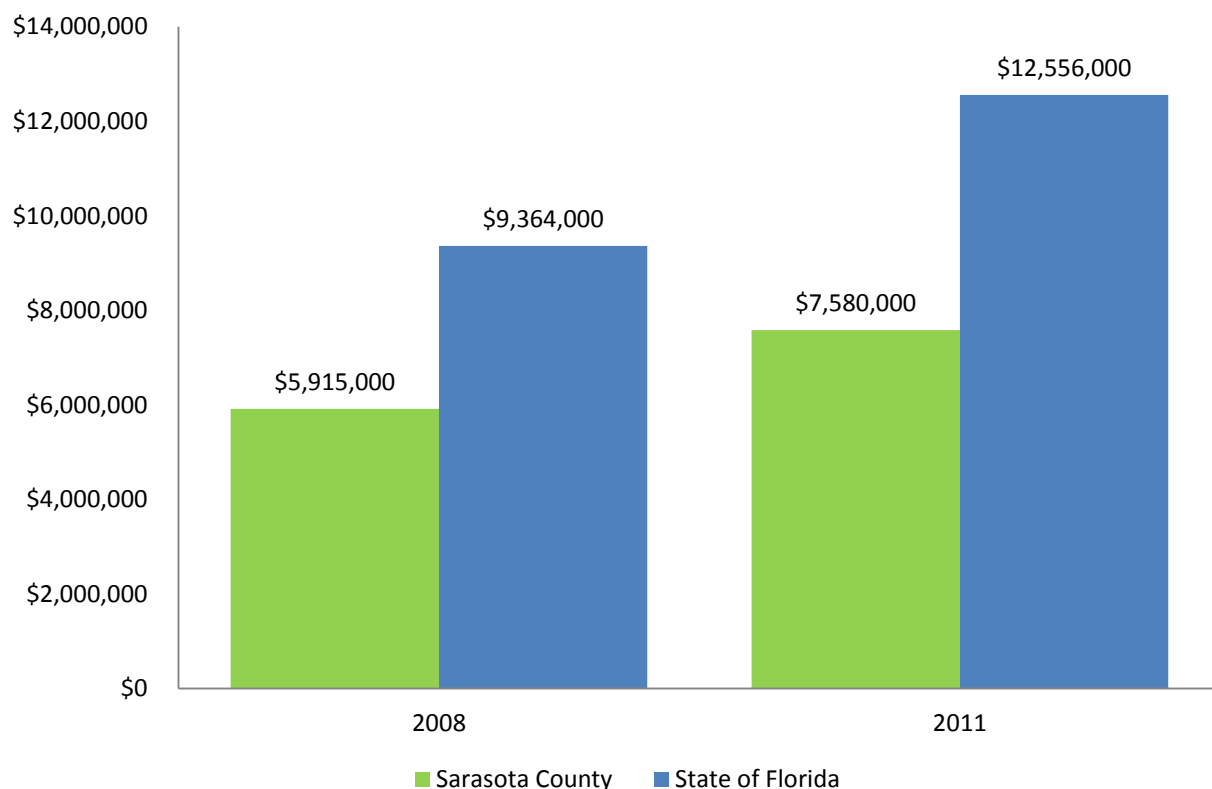

Figure 160: Arts and Economic Prosperity III & IV, Arts and Cultural Alliance in partnership with Americans for the Arts.

Arts

Economic Impacts of Arts & Cultural Organizations

These numbers present the total number of nonprofit arts and culture organization's event attendees in Sarasota County in 2008 and 2011. The data is also broken down by the total number of event attendees that are residents of Sarasota County and those that are nonlocal visiting attendees. The final columns show the annual aggregate of both local and non-local event attendees.

Between 2008 and 2011, there was an overall increase of 37,256 attendees to Sarasota County arts and culture events. In this time period, the number of visiting attendees dropped by 221,562, while the number of Sarasota County resident attendees increased by just over 1 million. This shows that Sarasota County residents are increasingly participating in events hosted by nonprofit arts and cultural organizations and are the main contributors to an increasing number of event attendees.

The methodology of this study does not include the economic impact of for-profit arts and cultural organizations or individual artists.
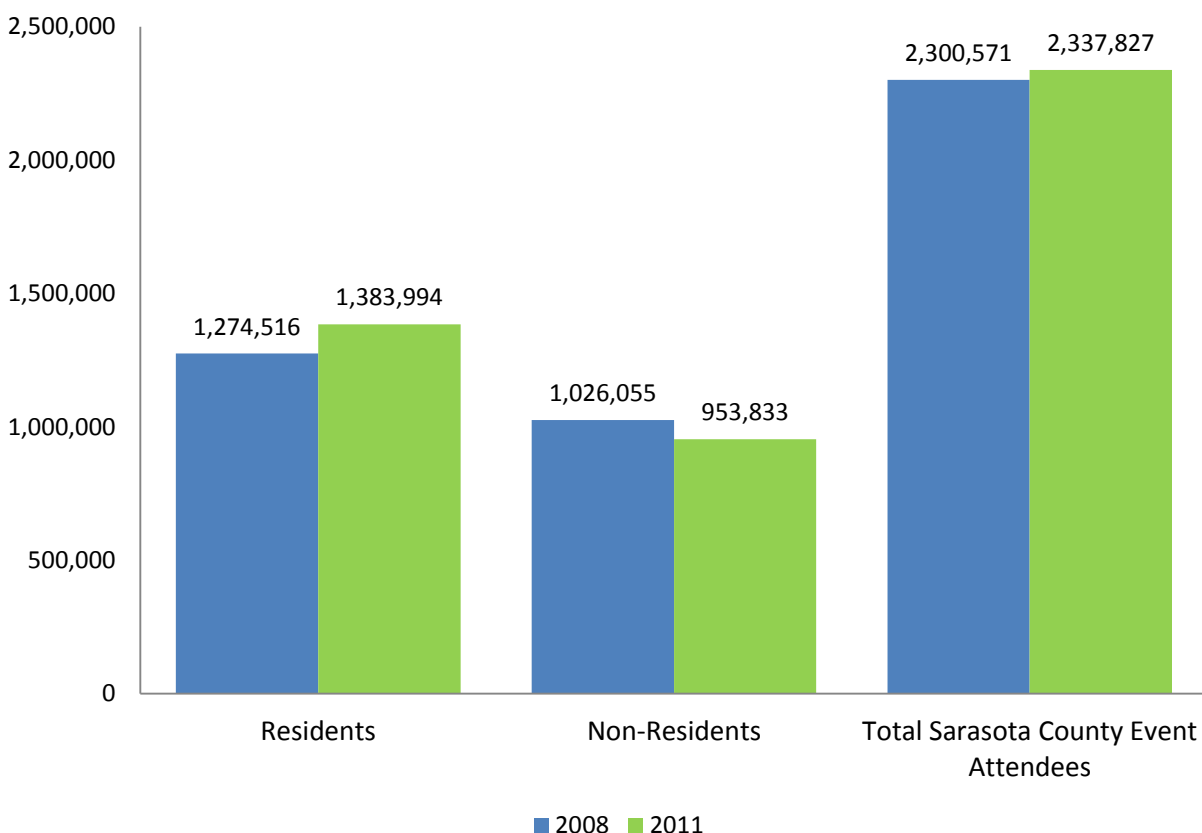

Figure 161: Arts and Economic Prosperity III & IV, Arts and Cultural Alliance in partnership with Americans for the Arts.

Arts

Direct Event-Related Expenditures by Event Attendees
Economic Impacts of Arts & Cultural Organizations

This graph shows the direct expenditures of event attendees who attended nonprofit arts and cultural events in Sarasota County. The data shows aggregate annual amounts of event related expenditures by both local attendees and nonlocal, visiting attendees. Expenditures were calculated by self-reporting random surveys conducted at events in Sarasota County. Expenditures do not include the cost of admission to attendees because it is calculated in the operating budgets of the organizations. Direct expenditures include attendee expenditures in local businesses, such as restaurants, retail, parking fees, hotels, baby sitters, etc.

In 2011, the total direct expenditures of event attendees to local arts and culture organizations was about $50.75 million, an increase from 2008 where direct attendee expenditures totaled about $50 million.

The methodology of this study does not include the economic impact of for-profit arts and cultural organizations or individual artists.
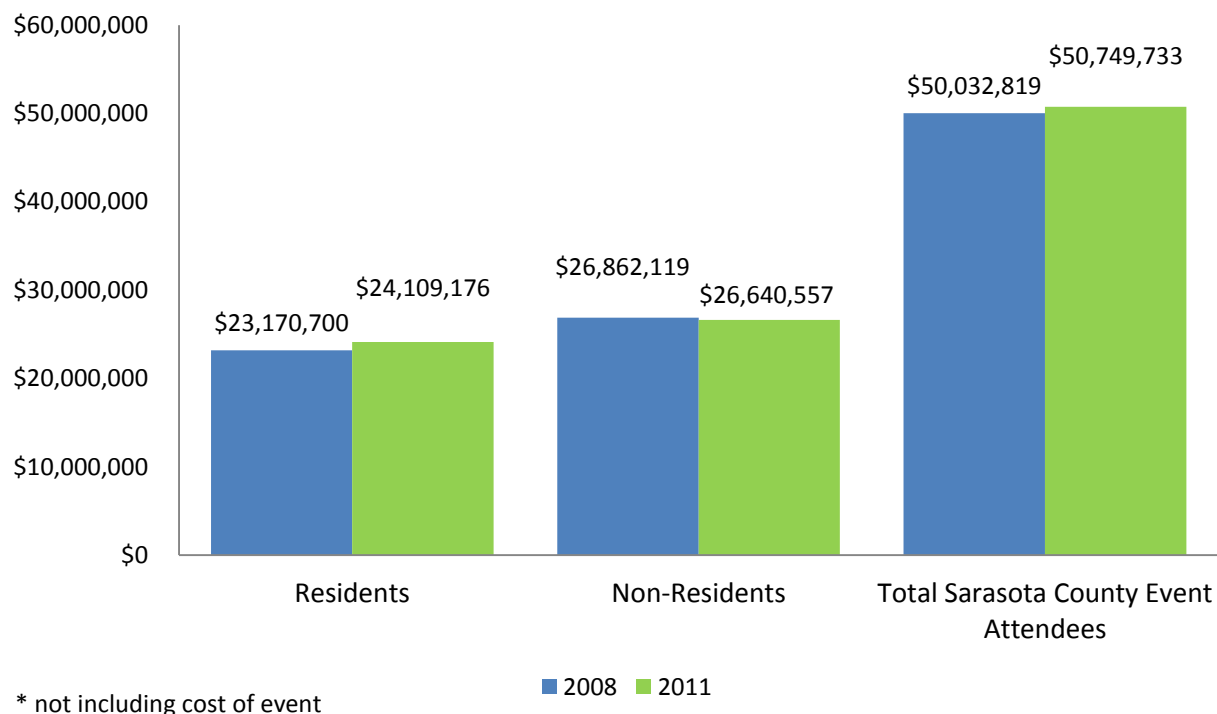

* not including cost of event

Figure 1: Arts and Economic Prosperity III & IV, Arts and Cultural Alliance in partnership with Americans for the Arts.

History

Sarasota County has a rich history, ranging from prehistoric archeological sites to an extravagant development story. Our county recognizes over a hundred historical events, people and places via markers placed around the county. The National Register of Historic Places officially recognizes 89 properties of national historical significance. The Florida Master Site File has almost 7 thousand listings in Sarasota County, representing a broad inventory of historic and pre-historic sites. In addition to these measures, sites and structures have been designated as "locally significant" by the County of Sarasota, The City of Venice and the City of Sarasota.

103

# of Sarasota County Historical Markers

"Generally, structures need to be at least fifty years old for historic designation, and they must possess historical integrity, i.e. the ability to relay their historical significance through their physical appearance. Additionally, resources must be associated with a significant historical events or figures, or associated with a defined historical context, embody the distinctive characteristics of an architectural style or method of construction, or be able to yield information important in history or pre-history."

Sarasota County Historical Resources, Historical Markers

89

 # National Register of Historic Places

The National Register of Historic Places (NRHP) is an active list of U.S. properties that have been determined through a *formal* process to be historically significant by the National Park Service, U.S. Department of the Interior.

US Department of the Interior, National Park Service, National Register of Historic Places Program

~6,955

 # Florida Master Site File Listings

The Florida Master Site File is the State of Florida's official inventory of historical and cultural resources. Categories of resources recorded at the Site File include: archaeological sites, historical structures, historical cemeteries, historical bridges, and historic districts.

Florida Department of State, Department of Historical Resources, Master Site File

223

 # Locally Designated Historic Structures and Sites

Sarasota County's Historic Designation program was established in 1997, forty four structures/sites have been historically designated since then. Both the City of Venice and the City of Sarasota have also established local designation programs. To be eligible for historic designation a structure must have retained its historic integrity and possess historic significance for its association with an important person or event or identifiable historic period. Buildings are also eligible if they are representative of a particular style or are the work of a master builder or designer. Additionally important archaeological sites can be historically designated. Indian Mound Park in Englewood was the first archaeological site to be designated in the county. Incentives for historic designation may include flexibility in the building and zoning codes and the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) regulations.

Sarasota County History Center, City of Sarasota, City of Venice

Public Access

Environmentally Sensitive Lands Protection Program of Sarasota County

35,340
Acres Protected (2013)

In the 1970's, Sarasota County saw a wave of support from communities and local residents to protect the natural lands that fall within county borders. **Grassroots movements** to raise awareness and support for protection of natural lands pushed the county to adopt an Endangered Lands Program in the 1970s. This public support was followed by expert evaluation and input in the 1980's, which led to High Ecological Value Evaluations of the natural lands in Sarasota County. The expert knowledge was brought back to the knowledgeable public which sparked the creation of the Environmentally Sensitive Land Advisory Committee in the 1990s. The committee drafted and proposed the Environmentally Sensitive Lands Protection Program of Sarasota County and was **approved by voters** in 1999.

The Environmentally Sensitive Lands Protection Program is a tax-payer funded program that works to purchase environmentally sensitive lands with intent of protection from development, management of natural resources, and nature-based public recreation. The sites are evaluated along specific criteria, which include **connectivity** of natural lands and habitats, **water quality**, **habitat rarity**, **land quality**, and **manageability**. This program currently protects about 35,340 acres of undeveloped natural lands in Sarasota County, not including public parks or state parks. While some of the land is protected through public ownership, several parcels provide protection through conservation easements. Most of the protected preserves are open to the public!

Source: Sarasota County, Lands Protection & Access, Environmentally Sensitive Lands Protection Program

Arts in Public Places

11
Pieces
Arts in Public Places

Sarasota County's Comprehensive Plan places great value in the county's preservation, installation, and exhibition of public art. Public art is important because it allows the county's cultural resources to be shared by all county residents and visitors, and adds to the county's identity as a cultural hub. Public art initiatives are a public and private collaborative to share works of art in the public realm.

The Arts in Public Places Program was adopted by the Board of County Commissioners in December of 1993. This program was an effort to increase public art to commemorate the county's cultural value and importance. The Arts in Public Places Program stipulated that funding was to be derived from a small percentage of eligible construction funds for government buildings. The last Art in Public Places project was in 2006 since project pace has slowed due to decrease in government construction projects in recent years. Public works of art commissioned by the program include murals, sculptures, and hanging mobiles.

Source: Sarasota County, Arts in Public Places Program (requested data)

Now that you have reviewed the full set of indicators for the culture & recreation domain of well-being, which indicators do you find most significant?

During our High Tech High Touch Workshops in 2013, we asked residents from the Sarasota County community to point out indicators that they believe are of most value to them in assessing the well-being of the county. For the Culture and Recreation domain of well-being, participants were very interested to see how much is being invested in the county's public parks. These are the recent trend for this indicator:

Sarasota County Parks and Recreation: Annual Expenditures

2007 → 2013		
$21,771,116	$16,544,104	**-24%**

2011 → 2013		
$13,315,043	$16,544,104	**+24%**

The long term trend from 2007 to 2013 shows an overall decrease of about 24% in annual expenditures in County Parks and Recreation. When we look at more recent data from 2011 to 2013, we can see that the most recent trends show an increase in annual expenditures – an increase of 24% in three years.

Sarasota County Parks and Recreation: Annual Expenditures *per capita*

2007 → 2013		
$56	$42	**-25%**

2011 → 2013		
$34	$42	**+24%**
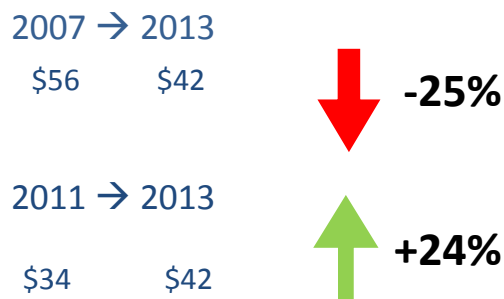
"Every child is an artist. The problem is how to remain an artist once (s)he grows up."
- Pablo Picasso

POSITIVE TRENDS

Culture and recreation in Sarasota County has many positive long- and short- term trends to boast. Here are some of the most recent trending indicators:

- ✓ Recreation program participants in programs hosted by Sarasota County Parks and Recreation has increased from 2012 to 2013.
- ✓ Sarasota County parks and recreation added 8 acres to the total number of developed acres in 2013.
- ✓ Total number of playgrounds installed by Sarasota County Parks and Recreation increased by 5 from 2012 to 2013.
- ✓ Sarasota County's Environmentally Sensitive Land Protection Program conserves more than 35 thousand acres of land!
- ✓ The overall economic impact of nonprofit arts and culture organizations in Sarasota County has increased!
- ✓ There are almost 7 thousand listings in Sarasota County on the official inventory of historical and cultural resources.

We encourage your own analysis of these indicators. Our intent is to spark conversation about issues you see in the data and to inspire action that comes from our community.

What indicators did we not include that would best show the overall health of Sarasota County? Please let us know!

About Our Sources

Florida Department of Highway Safety and Motor Vehicles, Vessel Registration and Titles

flhsmv.gov

" *Courtesy, Service, Protection."*

The Florida Department of Highway Safety and Motor Vehicles (DHSMV) is a public safety agency that works to execute highway safety and enforcement. In addition, the Florida DHSMV issues drivers licenses, photo identification, as well as registration and titles to all boats, motor vehicles, and mobile homes in the State of Florida. The DHSMV also keeps a database of Florida driver statuses and motor vehicle accidents.

Sarasota County Clerk, CAFR Reports

sarasotaclerk.com

The Sarasota County Clerk and Comptroller maintain chief financial responsibility for the county. The Clerk oversees the preparation and publishing of the official county financial reports. The Comprehensive Annual Financial Report is also overseen by the Clerk's offices and is required by Florida statute. The reports are made available online to the public.

Sarasota County Public Schools, Integrated Instructional Services

sarasotacountyschool.net

Sarasota County Schools Instructional Support Services works with schools, parents, staff and community to provide a high-quality education for Sarasota County Public School students. The Integrated Instructional Services works with grants, curriculum and instruction, professional development and teacher evaluation, research and assessment, and school improvements.

Sarasota County Historical Resources

scgov.net

"*The mission of Sarasota County Historical Resources is to promote an understanding of Sarasota County's heritage and protect its historic resources."*

Sarasota County Historical Resources is in charge of collecting and archiving information of historical significance to Sarasota County dating back to pre-historic times. The data and historical collection is a comprehensive research facility and is open to public research in the non-circulating Historical Resources

Library. Historical markers are placed around Sarasota County to commemorate the people, places and events that hold significance in Sarasota County's history.

US Department of the Interior, National Park Service,
National Register of Historic Places Program
nps.gov

The National Register of Historic Places Program is derived from National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 and archives the names and lists of U.S. properties that have significant historical standing and is worthy of preservation. This program also helps entities to determine qualification of eligible places, processes of listing and preservation, as well as benefits and incentives.

Florida Department of State, Department of Historical Resources, Master Site File
flheritage.com

The Florida Master Site File is the State of Florida's official inventory of historical and cultural resources. Categories of resources recorded at the Site File include: archeological sites, historical structures, historical cemeteries, historical bridges, and historic districts. The Site File is responsible for keeping archeological and historical survey reports that maintain a historic relevance to historic and pre-historic Florida. The data is held by the Site File but is available upon request. The Site File does not hold stringent standards for historic designation and therefore catalogues almost 200,000 cultural resources.

Sarasota County Government, Arts in Public Places Program

The Arts in Public Places Program was adopted by the Board of County Commissioners in December of 1993. This program was an effort to increase public art to commemorate the county's cultural value and importance. The program stipulated that funding was to be derived from a small percentage of eligible construction funds for government buildings. The last Art in Public Places project was in 2006. The project's pace has slowed due to decrease in government construction.

Sarasota County, Land Protection & Access,
Environmentally Sensitive Lands Protection Program
scgov.net

"Our goal is to balance the needs of the environment with the desires of the public to use these natural resources."

The Sarasota County Environmentally Sensitive Lands Protection Program is a voter-approved and tax-payer funded program. The goal of the program is to identify environmentally sensitive lands within the county that are prioritized by ecosystem connectivity, water quality, habitat rarity, land quality and manageability. Targeted lands are acquired by the county through the tax-payer funded program and protected from development. These lands are managed by Sarasota County and are accessible for public recreation.

Legacy Trail and Venetian Waterway Park: User Count Report, April 2011 – December 2013

bikewalkvenice.com

" *It is the mission of Bike / Walk Venice to promote bicycle and walking safety and enjoyment in the Venice area."*

Bike Walk Venice is a project team of the Venice Area Beautification, Inc. and works to promote bicycle and walking safety in the Venice area. Bike Walk Venice also hosts the report that gathers data on the number of users on both the Legacy Trail and Venetian Waterway Park. This report is used to estimate the total number of people that use these trails every year.

CONCLUSION

In order to openly plan for excellence, a community needs to understand who it is, where it has been, and what the current conditions are. SCOPE's Community Report Card was designed to do just that – provide a framework for understanding ourselves and the ever changing world we live in. By bringing together a sampling of data from many sources, we are able to provide a broad view within a one-stop source for community data. Of course the data is just the beginning.

It is our hope that this data will cause readers to reflect, to explore and to better understand the community in which we live. More importantly, we hope the SCOPE 2014 Community Report card inspires individuals and groups to consider how to continuously move our community forward toward excellence.
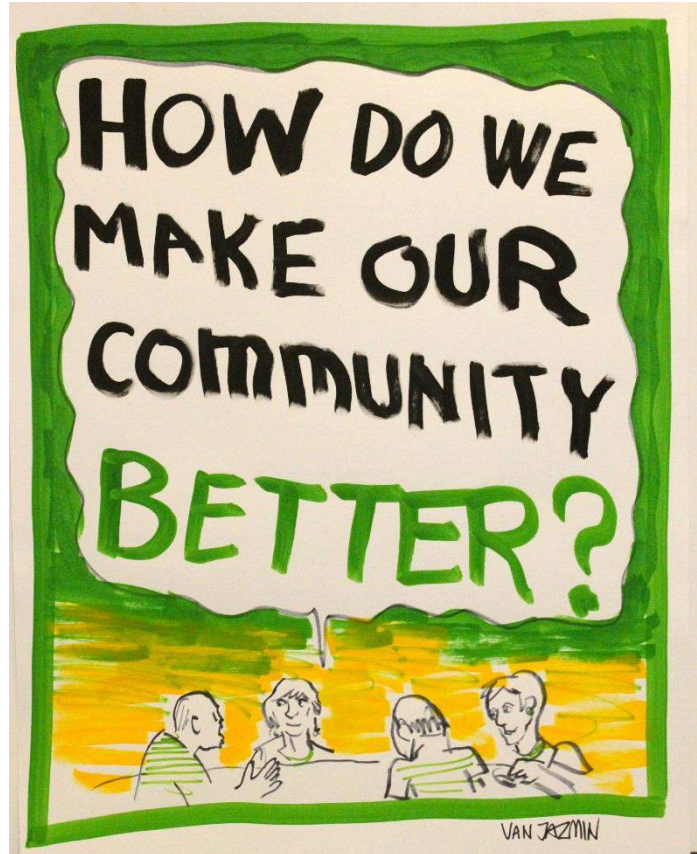
Thanks to the participants in SCOPE's 2013 High Tech – High Touch Community Workshops and the municipal partners who helped make those events a success. Special thanks to all of our data sources, our peer reviewers, our volunteers, and our staff. As a team, the information within this report has been gathered, analyzed and presented. Many thanks also to The Hub Agency for our cover design and the icons for each of the domains of community well-being.

What needs to change to make our community great?

What can I do to help that change come about?
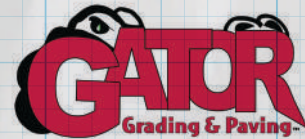
Working together, what excellence can we achieve?

What greatness can we celebrate?

SCOPE

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SPECIAL THANKS TO:

SARASOTA COUNTY GOVERNMENT
CITY OF NORTH PORT
CITY OF VENICE
CITY OF SARASOTA

COVER AND ICON DESIGN BY: **hub.agency**