

Healthy Volusia Report Highlights Access to Care in Volusia County

For Hometown News
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The Florida Department of Health in Volusia County has issued a report that takes a closer look at access to care in Volusia County.

"Having access to a primary source of health care is crucial to ensuring that residents of Volusia County can maintain their health," said Dr. Bonnie J. Sorensen, health department director. "It is the most efficient way for individuals to prevent an illness, minimize the effects of an illness or treat an illness."

The Healthy Volusia Access to Care report examines how individuals are impacted by access to health care on the county, state and national level. For example, as of 2012, the percentage of residents with access to health care was

82 percent in Volusia, 83 percent in the state of Florida and 83 percent in the U.S. The Healthy People 2020 goal is to increase access to 100 percent by the year 2020.

Report highlights include:

- Volusia County is not considered a dental shortage area, according to the U.S. Health Resources and Services Administration; however, two cities (Holly Hill and Deltona) exceed the recommended population to dentist ratios.

- Health Quadrants 1 (northwest Volusia) and 2 (northeast Volusia) had the highest age-adjusted rates for hospitalizations due to the top six Ambulatory Care Sensitive Conditions among people under age 65. Health Quadrants 1 and 2 also have the largest percentage of residents in poverty.

- Health Quadrant 1 has the fewest physicians in Volusia County, and also the fewest number of health care facilities. Only 37 physicians, advanced registered nurse practitioners and physician assistants have licenses to practice in Health Quadrant 1 which serves roughly 80,000 people.

- The number of Newborn Abstinence Syndrome cases (newborns exposed to addictive illegal or prescription drugs while in the womb) in Volusia County has dramatically increased from 2008 (18 babies) to 2011 (61 babies), a four-fold surge. Similarly, Florida Newborn Abstinence Syndrome births more than doubled from 2008 (691) to 2011 (1,563).

To view the quarterly Healthy Volusia Reports, visit volusiahealth.com.