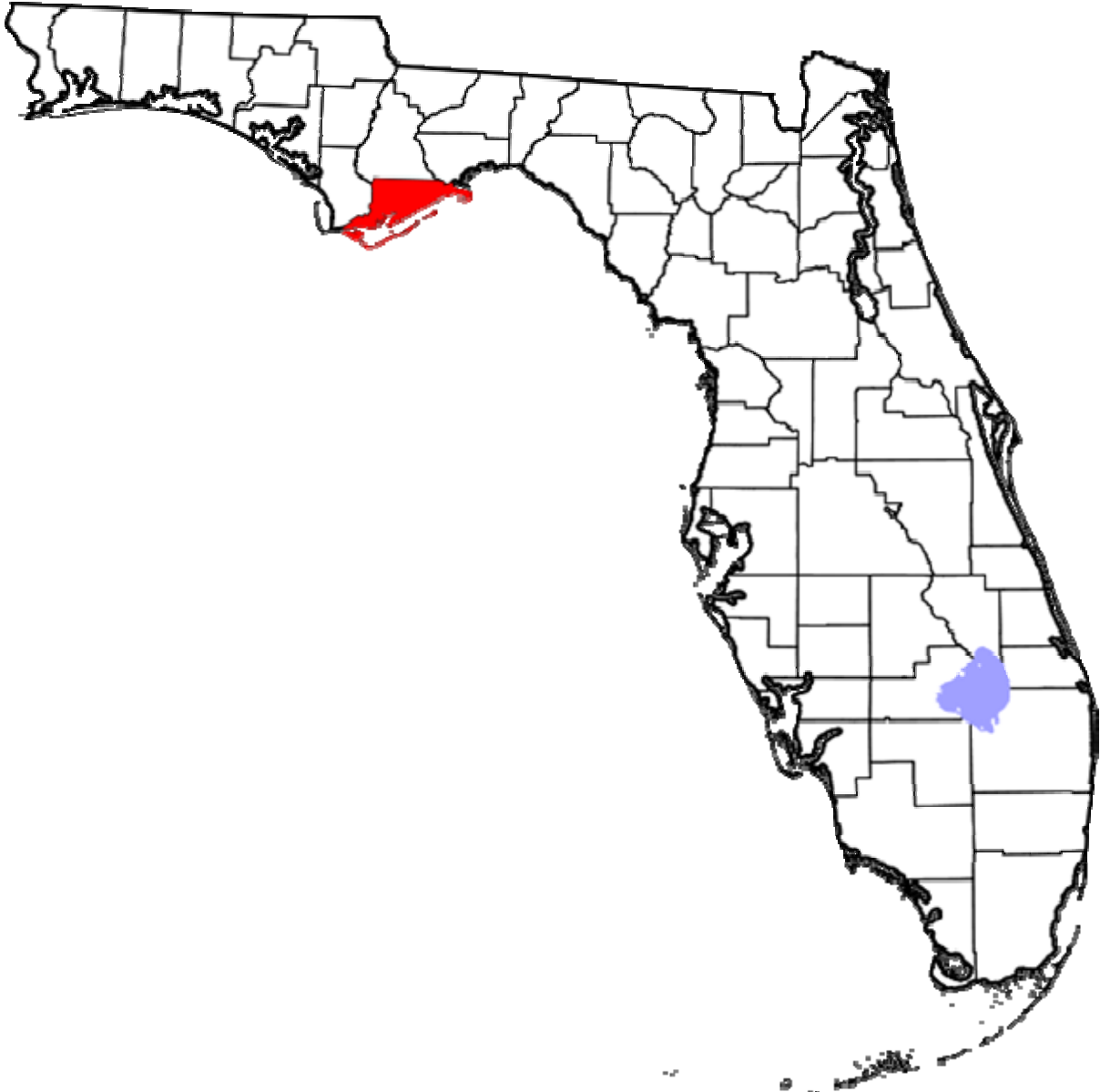


# **FRANKLIN COUNTY, FLORIDA**



**HEALTH SERVICES PLAN**  
**August 2007**

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## 1. INTRODUCTION

The purpose of this report is to analyze the health position of Franklin County and provide recommendations to improve the health status of its residents.

## 2. METHODOLOGY

This report synthesizes data and analysis from the “George E. Weems Memorial Hospital Utilization Report, June 2007”, “Franklin County Health Profile, 2006” and “Franklin County Citizen Survey, 2006”. In addition, data from established sources including:

- Hospital Discharge Data, Big Bend Health Planning Council;
- Census Data, U.S. Census Bureau, Florida Executive Office of the Governor; and
- State of Florida Community Health Assessment Resource Tool Set

will be examined, analyzed and incorporated as appropriate.

## 3. GOALS

- A. Insure Access to appropriate health care services for Franklin County residents and visitors.
- B. Insure the availability of emergency medical stabilization and transportation within a 20 minutes of an accident or identified illness
- C. Insure the provision of diagnosis and early treatment of patients within a 30 minute travel parameter for all county residents
- D. Insure the availability of primary outpatient services to all Franklin County residents and visitors regardless of the ability to pay.
- E. Provide for the referral and transport of all patients from Franklin County to appropriate tertiary and surgical services at a regional medical facility within one hour of an traumatic injury or serious illness
- F. Provide for short term hospitalization for basic hospital services and conditions and for recuperative care.

**4. SYSTEM DESCRIPTION**

**A. DEMOGRAPHIC PROFILE**

Franklin County, covering an area of 545 square miles, is situated on Northwestern Panhandle of Florida, and is located approximately 80 miles southwest of the State capitol, Tallahassee. Franklin County, with its two municipalities, Apalachicola and Carrabelle, has a population density of 20.3 persons per square mile. There are four zip codes in the County as follows:

**Table 1  
Zip Codes in Franklin County, Florida**

Zip Code	Description
32320	Apalachicola
32328	Eastpoint
32322	Carrabella
32346	Panacea—Extends into neighboring Wakulla County

**1) Population**

Franklin County ranks 65 out of 67 in populations for Florida counties. The overall population of Franklin County is projected to increase by 14.2 percent from 2007 to 2012 compared to 10.3 percent for the State. Table 2 compares Franklin County population trends from 1990 to 2000 to Florida trends. Table 3 indicates that 10,264 people live in Franklin County representing less than 1% of the State of Florida’s population (18,089,888).

**Table 3  
Population Trends, Franklin County and State, 1990-2000**

Franklin County			Percent Change	Percent Change-State	Population Density-State-
1990 Population	2000 Population	Net Change	1990-2000	1990-2000	2000 Persons/sq.mi.)
8,967	11,057	2,090	23.5	23.5	296.4

Data Source: Population Estimates from the Executive Office of the Governor.  
Source: Florida Community Health Assessment Resource Tool Set, 2007.

**Table 4**  
**Population Estimates for State of Florida**  
**Ranked by County Population**

Rank	Geographic Area	Population Estimates		
		07/01/06	April 1, 2000	
			Estimates Base	Census
	<b>Florida</b>	<b>18,089,888</b>	<b>15,982,824</b>	<b>15,982,378</b>
1	Miami-Dade	2,402,208	2,253,779	2,253,362
2	Broward	1,787,636	1,623,018	1,623,018
3	Palm Beach	1,274,013	1,131,191	1,131,184
4	Hillsborough	1,157,738	998,948	998,948
5	Orange	1,043,500	896,346	896,344
6	Pinellas	924,413	921,495	921,482
7	Duval	837,964	778,866	778,879
8	Lee	571,344	440,888	440,888
9	Polk	561,606	483,924	483,924
10	Brevard	534,359	476,230	476,230
65	Franklin	10,264	9,829	11,057
66	Lafayette	8,045	7,022	7,022
67	Liberty	7,782	7,021	7,021

Source: Population Division, U.S. Census Bureau; Release Date: March 22, 2007  
 Source: Florida Community Health Assessment Resource Tool Set, 2007.

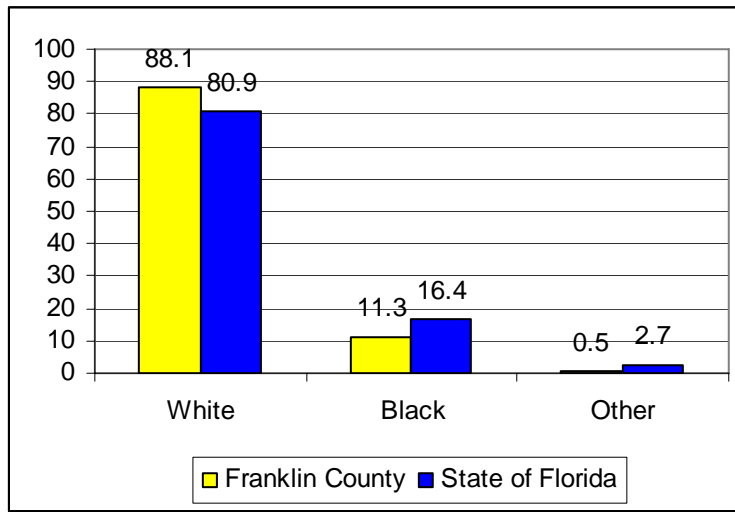
Table 5 and Figure 1 compare Franklin County to Florida by Race.

**Table 5**  
**Population by Race, Franklin County and State, 2005**

Race	COUNTY		STATE
	Population	Percentage	Percentage
White	9,616	88.1	80.9
Black	1,236	11.3	16.4
Other	57	0.5	2.7
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>10,909</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>

Data Source: Population estimates from the Office of the Governor.  
 Source: Florida Community Health Assessment Resource Tool Set, 2007.

**Figure 1**  
**Population Percentage by Race, Franklin County and State, 2005**



Data Source: Population Estimates from the Executive Office of the Governor  
 Source: Florida Community Health Assessment Resource Tool Set, 2007.

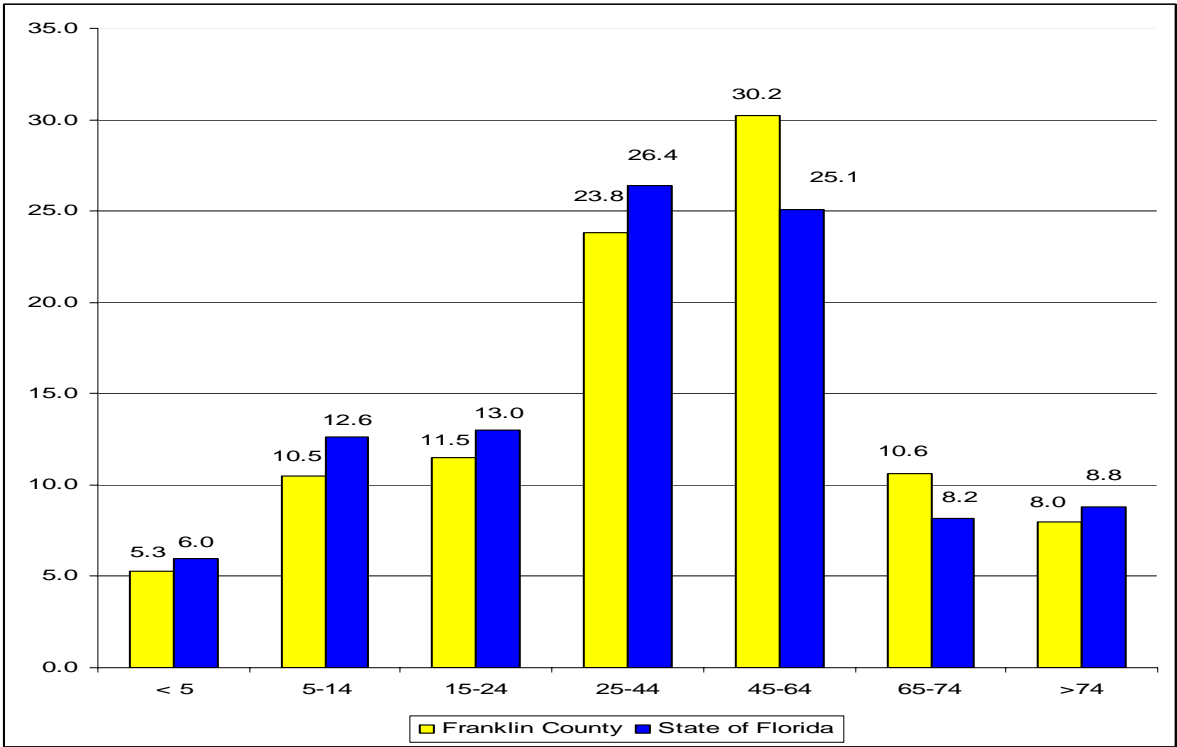
Table 6 compares the population of Franklin County to the State by Age group and Gender.

**Table 6**  
**Population by Age and Gender, Franklin County and State, 2005**

Age group	Franklin County						State		
	Number			Percent			Percent		
	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total
< 5	292	282	574	5.3	5.3	5.3	6.2	5.7	6
5-14	590	555	1,145	10.7	10.3	10.5	13.2	12.1	12.6
15-24	644	608	1,252	11.6	11.3	11.5	13.6	12.4	13
24-44	1,380	1,215	2,595	25	22.7	23.8	27.2	25.6	26.4
45-64	1,640	1,655	3,295	29.7	30.9	30.2	24.7	25.4	25.1
65-74	600	560	1,160	10.9	10.4	10.6	7.7	8.7	8.2
> 74	383	489	872	6.9	9.1	8	7.4	10.1	8.8
<b>Total</b>	<b>5,529</b>	<b>5,364</b>	<b>10,893</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>

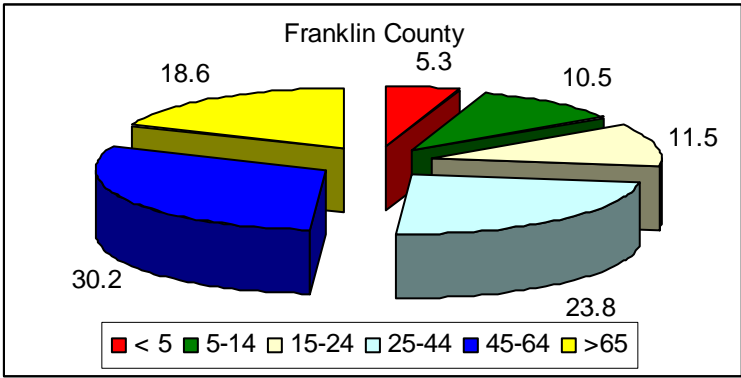
Data Source: Population Estimates from the Executive Office of the Governor  
 Source: Florida Community Health Assessment Resource Tool Set, 2007.

**Figure 2**  
**Population by Age Group, Franklin County and State, 2005**



Data Source: Population Estimates from the Executive Office of the Governor  
 Source: Florida Community Health Assessment Resource Tool Set, 2007.

**Figure 3**  
**Population by Age Group, Franklin County, 2005**



Data Source: Population Estimates from the Executive Office of the Governor  
 Source: Florida Community Health Assessment Resource Tool Set, 2007.

The overall population of Franklin County is projected to be 11,681 in 2007 and 13,342 in 2012 representing an increase of 14.2 percent vs. 10.3 percent for the State (Table 7).

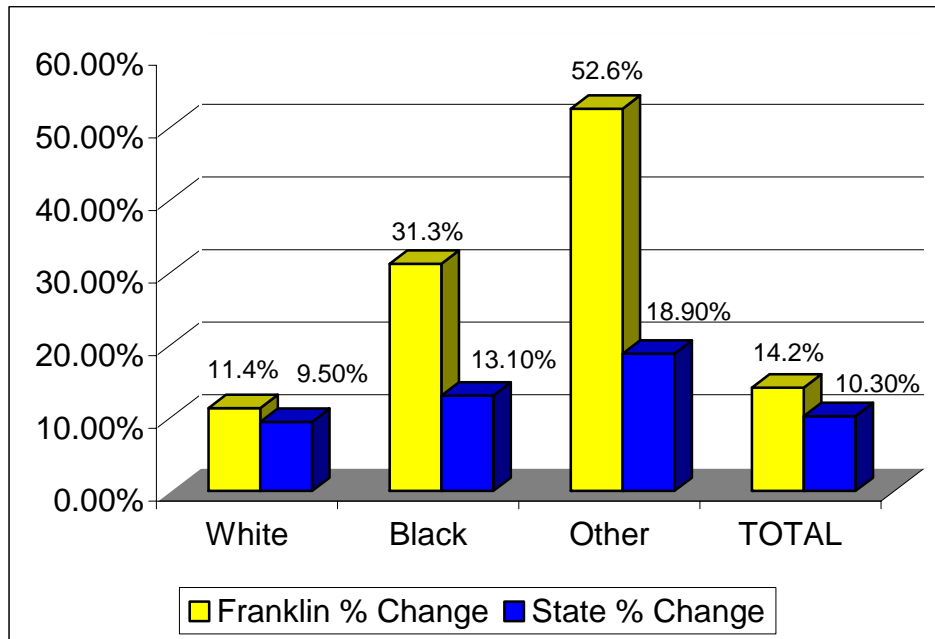
**Table 7**  
**Estimated Population Growth 2007-2012, Franklin County and State**

	FRANKLIN COUNTY			STATE		
	2007	2012	% Change	2007	2012	% Change
<b>White</b>	10,118	11,274	11.40%	15,144	16,576,450	9.50%
<b>Black</b>	1,487	1,952	31.30%	3,149,074	3,560,172	13.10%
<b>Other</b>	76	116	52.60%	532,558	633,085	18.90%
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>11,681</b>	<b>13,342</b>	<b>14.20%</b>	<b>18,825,637</b>	<b>20,769,707</b>	<b>10.30%</b>

Data Source: Population Estimates from the Executive Office of the Governor  
 Source: Florida Community Health Assessment Resource Tool Set, 2007.

Figure 4 displays estimates for population growth for Franklin County and the State by demographics.

**Figure 4**  
**Estimated Population Growth 2007-2012, Franklin County and State**



Data Source: Population Estimates from the Executive Office of the Governor  
 Source: Florida Community Health Assessment Resource Tool Set, 2007.

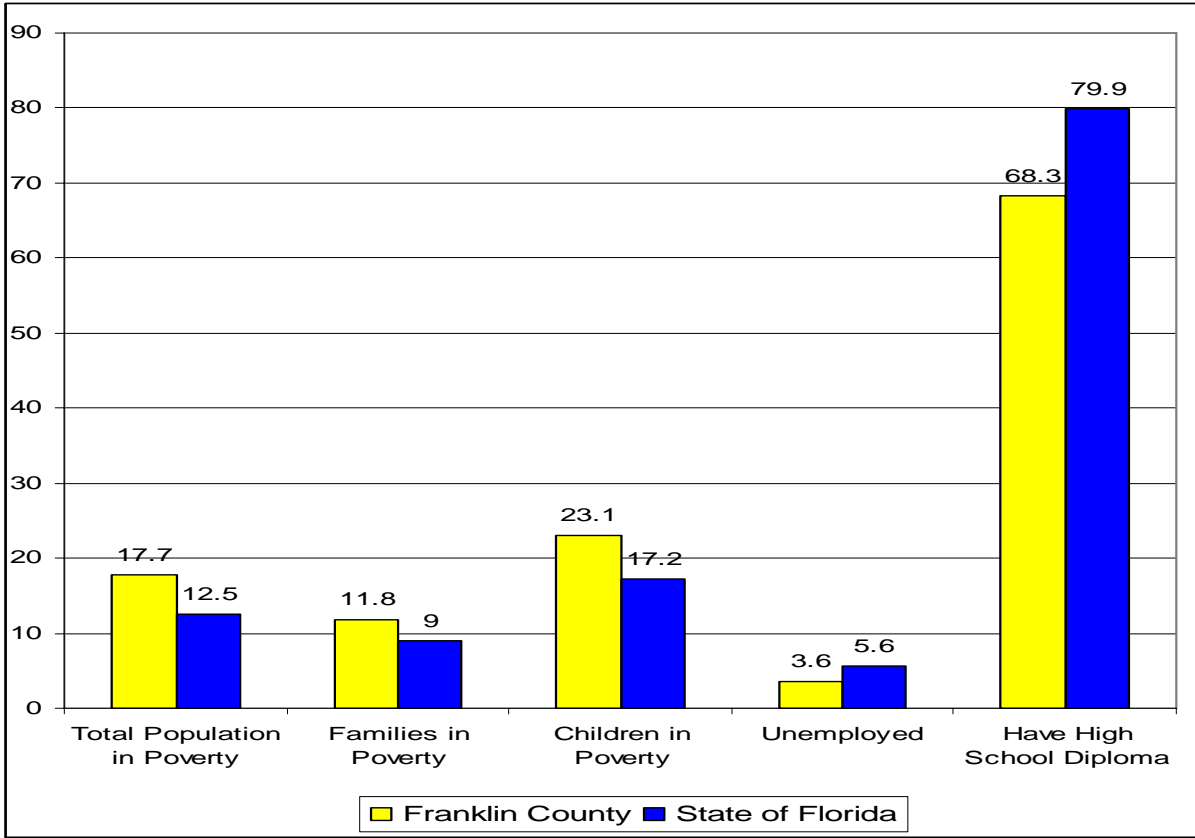
2) Socio Economic Characteristics

**Table 8  
Selected Socioeconomic Indicators, County and State, 2000**

	Franklin County			STATE
	1990	2000	Quartile	2000
Percent of total population below poverty level	26.6	17.7	3	12.5
Percent of families below poverty level	23.2	11.8	3	9
Percent of population under 18 below poverty level	34.3	23.0	3	17.2
Percent of civilian labor force which is unemployed	8.4	3.6	1	5.6
Median household income	17,247	26,756	1	38,819
Percent of population > 25 with a high school diploma	59.4	68.3	1	79.9
Percent of population > 5 that doesn't speak English		0.0	1	1.9
Median age		40.8	3	38.7

Data Source: 2000 U.S. Census  
Source: Florida Community Health Assessment Resource Tool Set, 2007.

**Figure 5**  
**Selected Socioeconomic Indicators, County and State, 2000**



Data Source: 2000 U.S. Census  
 Source: Florida Community Health Assessment Resource Tool Set, 2007.

**3) Health Status – Morbidity and Mortality**

Morbidity refers to disease, and mortality refers to death. The term morbidity rate refers either to the incidence rate or to the prevalence rate of a disease and mortality rate is the number of people dying during a given time interval. Incidence of morbidity and mortality for Franklin County are depicted in the maps and charts below. Table 9 depicts chronic diseases in Franklin County from 2003-2005. A review of the chronic disease profile in Franklin County prompted a review of the deaths based on these chronic diseases.

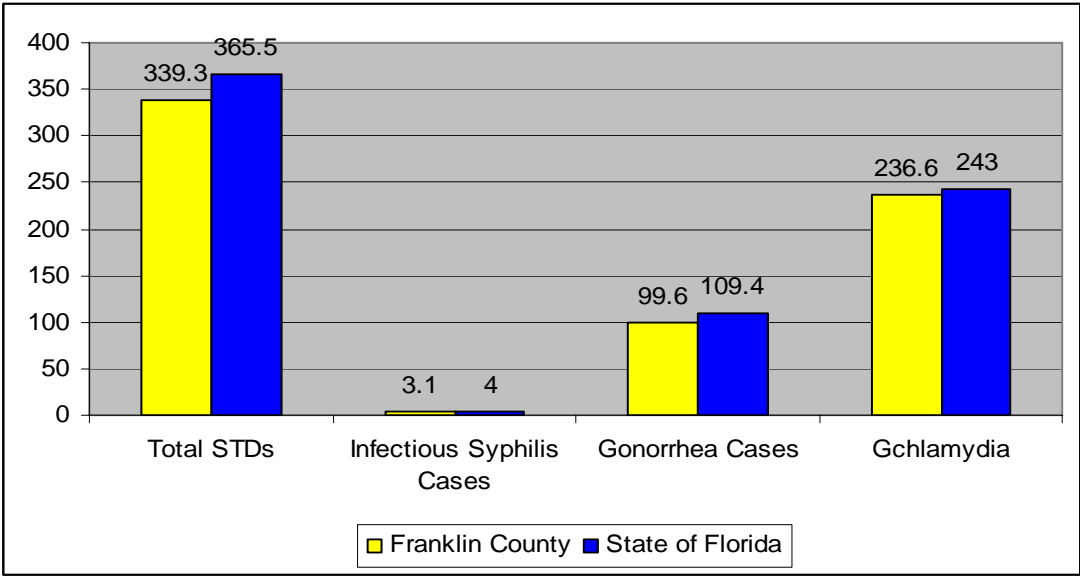
a) Communicable Diseases

**Table 9**  
**Reported Sexually Transmitted Disease Cases per 100,000, County and State, 2003-2005**

	FRANKLIN COUNTY			FLORIDA
	# of Cases (annual avg) 2003-2005	3-Year Rate Per 100,000 2003-2005	Quartile	3-Yr Rate per 100,000 2003-2005
Sexually Transmitted Diseases (STD)				
Gonorrhea, Chlamydia & Infectious Syphilis	36.3	339.3	3	356.5
Infectious Syphilis Cases	0.3	3.1	4	4.0
Gonorrhea Cases	10.7	99.6	3	109.4
Chlamydia	25.3	236.6	3	243.0
Vaccine Preventable Diseases				
Vaccine Preventable Disease Rate for All Ages	0.3	3.1	3	3.6
Hepatitis B Cases	0.3	3.1	3	3.0
Mumps	0.0	0.0	1	0.0
Rubella	0.0	0.0	1	0.0
Pertussis	0.0	0.0	1	0.5
Tetanus	0.0	0.0	1	0.0
AIDS and Other Diseases				
AIDS Cases	0.3	3.1	1	26.9
Meningococcal Meningitis	0.0	0.0	1	0.1
Hepatitis A Cases	0.3	3.1	4	1.7
Tuberculosis Cases	0.3	3.1	2	6.1

Data Source: Division of Disease Control, Florida Department of Health  
Source: Florida Community Health Assessment Resource Tool Set, 2007.

**Figure 6**  
**Reported Sexually Transmitted Disease Cases per 100,000, County and State, 2003-2005**



Data Source: Division of Disease Control, Florida Department of Health  
Source: Florida Community Health Assessment Resource Tool Set, 2007.

b) Chronic Diseases

**Table 10  
Franklin County Chronic Disease Profile**

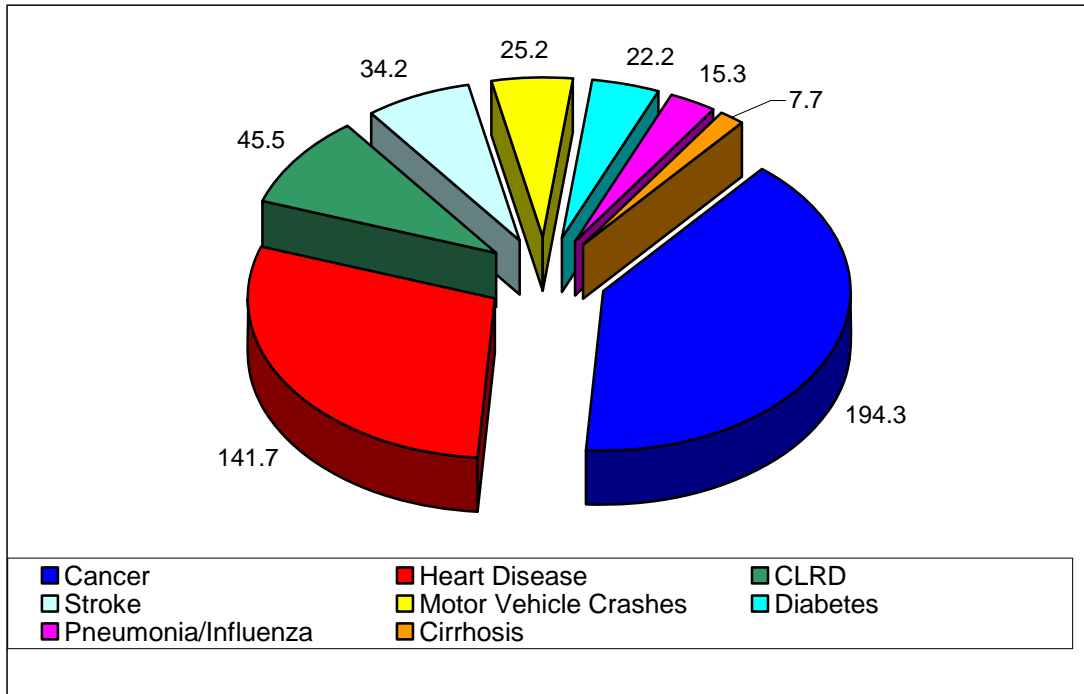
	Year(s)	Avg Annual # of	Age-Adjusted Rate	Quartile	Age-Adjusted Rate	Healthy People 2010
<b>Coronary Heart Disease</b>						
Deaths	2003-05	13	79.5	1	146.2	162
Hospitalizations	2003-05	108	700.2	3	674.9	
<b>Stroke</b>						
Deaths	2003-05	5	34.2	1	39.6	50
Hospitalizations	2003-05	45	301.8	2	318.9	
<b>Congestive Heart Failure</b>						
Deaths	2003-05	4	29.5	4	7	
Hospitalizations	2003-05	56	359.1	3	316.8	
<b>Lung Cancer</b>						
Deaths	2003-05	15	95.5	4	51.9	43.3
Incidence	2001-03	15	109.5	NA	72	
% of Adults who Currently Smoke	2002		25.60%	3	22.20%	12.00%
<b>Colorectal Cancer</b>						
Deaths	2003-05	1	11.5	1	16	13.7
Incidence	2001-03	7	NA	NA	50.1	
% of Adults 50+ who have ever had a sigmoidoscopy or colonoscopy	2002		49.4%	3	52.6%	50%
% of Adults 40+ who have had a blood stool test in past two years	2002		32.8%	3	33.5%	50%
<b>Breast Cancer</b>						
Deaths	2003-05	<1	3.2	1	22.4	21.3
Incidence	2001-03	5	NA	NA	116.7	
<b>Prostate Cancer</b>						
Deaths	2003-05	1	25.3	3	21	28.2
Incidence	2001-03	5	NA	NA	141.2	
<b>Cervical Cancer</b>						
Deaths	2003-05	<1	4	4	2.6	2
Incidence	2001-03	2	NA	NA	9.8	
% of adult (18+) women who have had a pap test in past three years	2002		76.5%	4	82.2%	90%
<b>Skin Cancer</b>						
Deaths	2003-05		0	1	2.8	2.3
Incidence	2001-03	1	NA	NA	15.6	
<b>Chronic Lower Respiratory Diseases</b>						
Deaths	2003-05	6	45.5	3	37.9	62.3
Hospitalizations	2003-05	60	430.9	3	354.6	
% of Adults (18+) with asthma	2002		10.3%	2	10.7%	
Asthma Hospitalizations	2003-05	70	613.3	3	666.4	
<b>Diabetes</b>						
Deaths	2003-05	3	22.2	2	21.2	46
Hospitalizations	2003-05	288	1,917.1	2	1,890.6	
Hospitalization/Diabetes-related amputation	2003-05	3	22	2	24.6	18
% of Adults who have ever been told by a doctor that they have diabetes	2002		8.7%	2	8.2%	

Source: Florida Community Health Assessment Resource Tool Set, 2007.

**c) Major Causes of Death**

Causes of death within Franklin County are reflected in the following tables. Causes of death for GE WEEMSs Primary Service Area are depicted in the pie chart below. This pie chart reflects a compilation of deaths from 2003-2005.

**Figure 7**  
**Franklin County Major Causes of Death, 2003-2005**



Source: Florida Community Health Assessment Resource Tool Set, 2007.

**Table 11**  
**Resident 3-Year Age-Adjusted Death Rates, 2003-2005, by Cause**

	Franklin County					State			
	White	Black	Quartile	All Races	Quartile	White	Black	All Races	
<b>Total Deaths</b>	<b>816.8</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>759.9</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>805.1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>712.9</b>	<b>941.8</b>	<b>734.4</b>
Cancer	194.3	3	184.3	2	194.3	3	171.3	198.4	173.1
Heart Disease	145.2	1	92.3	1	141.7	1	190	246.5	194.8
CLRD	44.9	2	63	4	45.5	3	38.9	25.6	37.9
Stroke	36.2	2	32.1	1	34.2	1	36.7	71	39.6
Motor Vehicle Crashes	28.6	3	0	1	25.2	3	19.3	17.9	18.7
Diabetes	15.4	1	106.8	4	22.2	2	18.8	49.5	21.2
Pneumonia/Influenza	17.3	3	0	1	15.3	2	11.8	15.6	12.1
Cirrhosis	8.6	1	0	1	7.7	1	11.09	6.8	10.4

Source: Florida Office of Vital Statistics

Source: Florida Community Health Assessment Resource Tool Set, 2007.

**d) Natality**

Franklin County data is depicted below.

**Table 12  
Maternal & Child Health**

Indicator (3-YR Figures, 2003-2005)	FRANKLIN COUNTY								STATE
	White**	Quartile	Black**	Quartile	Hispanic	Quartile	All Races	Quartile	
<b>Births</b>									
Total Births (3-yr annual avg.)	108.7	1	9.7	1	5.3	1	121.3	1	
Births to Mothers ages 15-44, per 1,000*	70.4	3	43.3	1			68.2	3	63.6
Births to Mothers ages 10-14, per 1,000*	0.0	1	0.0	1			0.0	1	0.7
Births to Mothers ages 15-19, per 1,000*	92.7	4	80.5	4			91.9	4	42.0
Percent of Births to Unwed Mothers	41.4	3	89.7	4	50.0	3	46.2	3	41.4
<b>Infant Deaths</b>									
Infant Deaths (0-364 days) per 1,000 Births	12.3	4	0.0	1	0.0	1	11.0	4	7.2
Neonatal Deaths (0-27 days) per 1,000 Births	3.2	2	0.0	1	0.0	1	2.7	1	4.6
Postneonatal Deaths (28-364 days) per 1,000 Births	9.2	4	0.0	1	0.0	1	8.2	4	2.6
<b>Low Birth Weight</b>									
Percent of Births < 1500 Grams	1.5	4	0.0	1	0.0	1	1.4	2	1.6
Percent of Births < 2500 Grams	8.3	4	13.8	2	12.5	4	8.8	3	8.6

\*Hispanic data not available after 1999

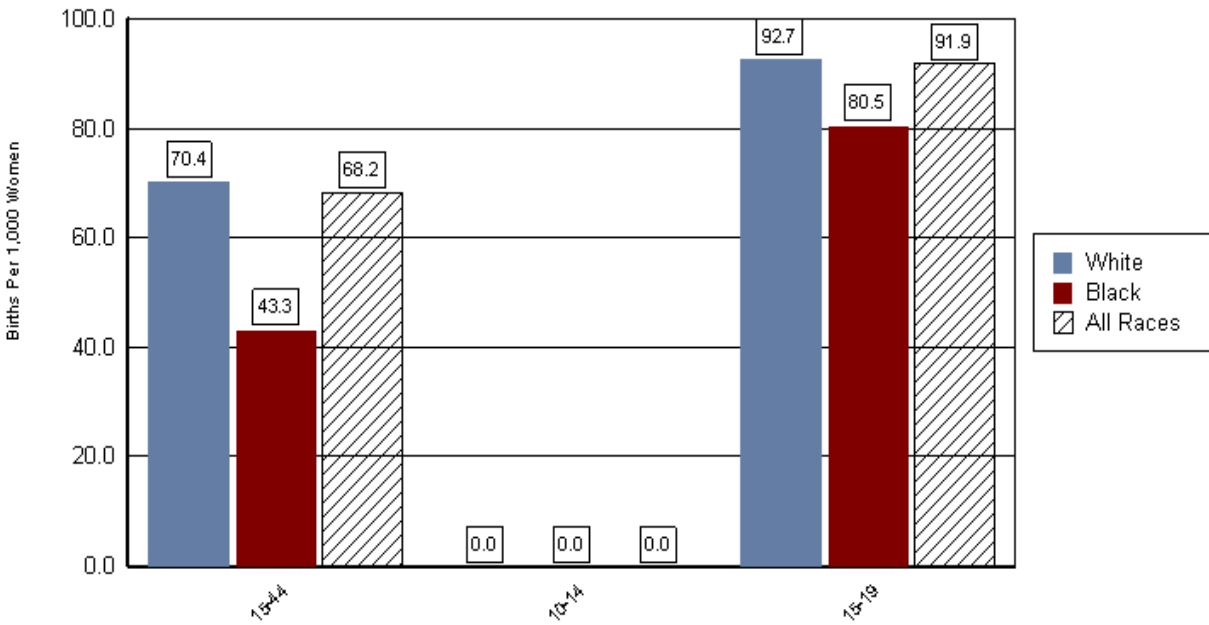
\*\*Non-Hispanic

Data Source: Florida Department of Health  
Source: Florida Community Health Assessment Resource Tool Set, 2007.

**Important note regarding prenatal care data**

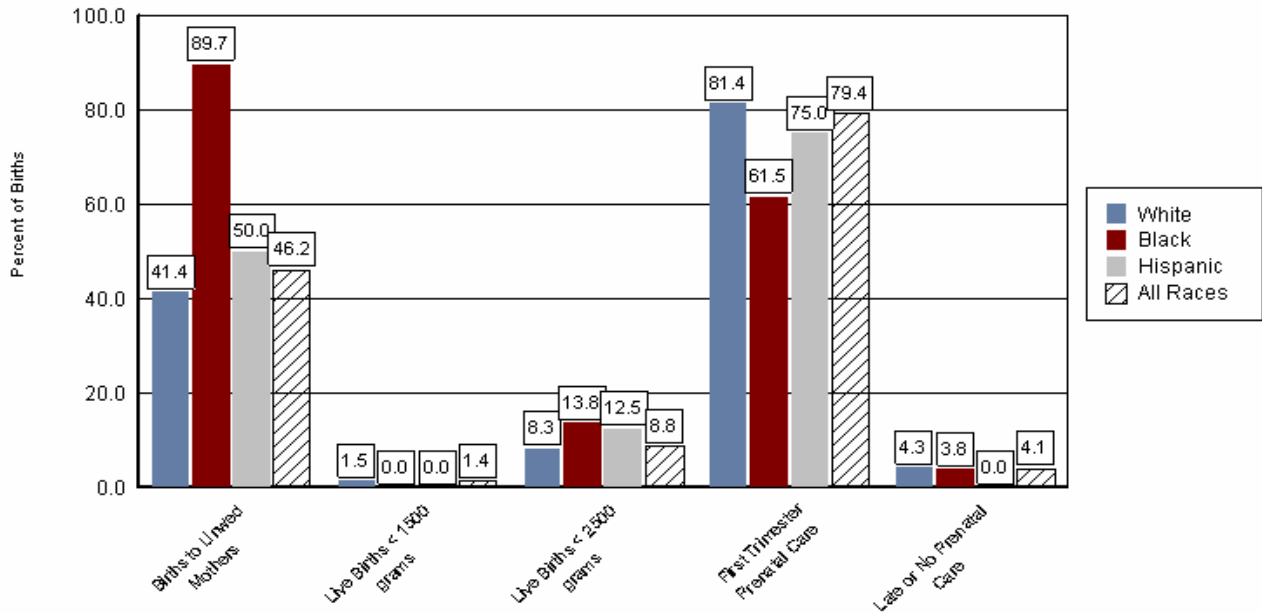
Starting in 2004, trimester prenatal care began is calculated as the time elapsed from the date of the last menstrual period to the date of the first prenatal care visit. Prior to 2004, these data were obtained by direct question that noted the trimester the mother began prenatal care. Consequently, these data are not comparable to that from prior years. Births with unknown information as to when prenatal care began are excluded from the denominator.

**Figure 8**  
**Births per 1,000 Women by Age and Race of Mother**  
**Franklin County, 2003-2005**



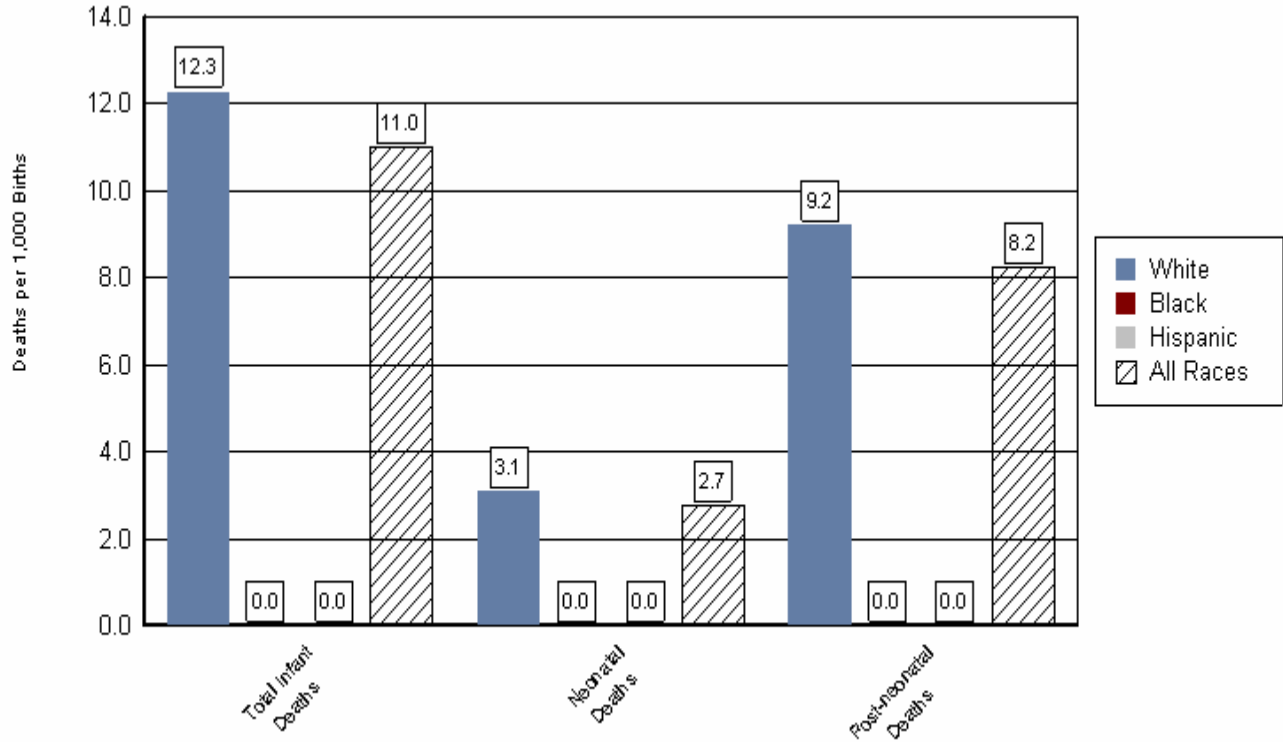
Source: Florida Community Health Assessment Resource Tool Set, 2007.

**Figure 9**  
**Percent of Births by Marital Status, Birth Weight and Prenatal Care**  
**Franklin County, 2003-2005**



Source: Florida Community Health Assessment Resource Tool Set, 2007.

**Figure 10**  
**Infant Deaths per 1,000 Live Births**  
**Franklin County, 2003-2005**



Source: Florida Community Health Assessment Resource Tool Set, 2007.

**B. AREA HEALTH RESOURCES**

Franklin County has been designated by the U.S. department of Health and Human Services, Health Resources and Services Administration as a Medically Underserved Population Area (MUP) on 8/28/02 with a score of 43.30 on the Index of Medical Under service (IMU) scale. The IMU scale is from 0 to 100, where 0 represents completely underserved and 100 represents best served or least underserved. Under the established criteria, each service area found to have an IMU of 62.0 or less qualifies for designation as an MUA. This designation is based on the ratio of primary medical care physicians per 1,000 population, infant mortality rate, percentage of the population with incomes below the poverty level and percentage of the population age 65 or over.

Health Resource availability in Franklin County is depicted below.

**Table 13**  
**Health Resource Availability per 100,000**  
**Franklin County and State, 2005**

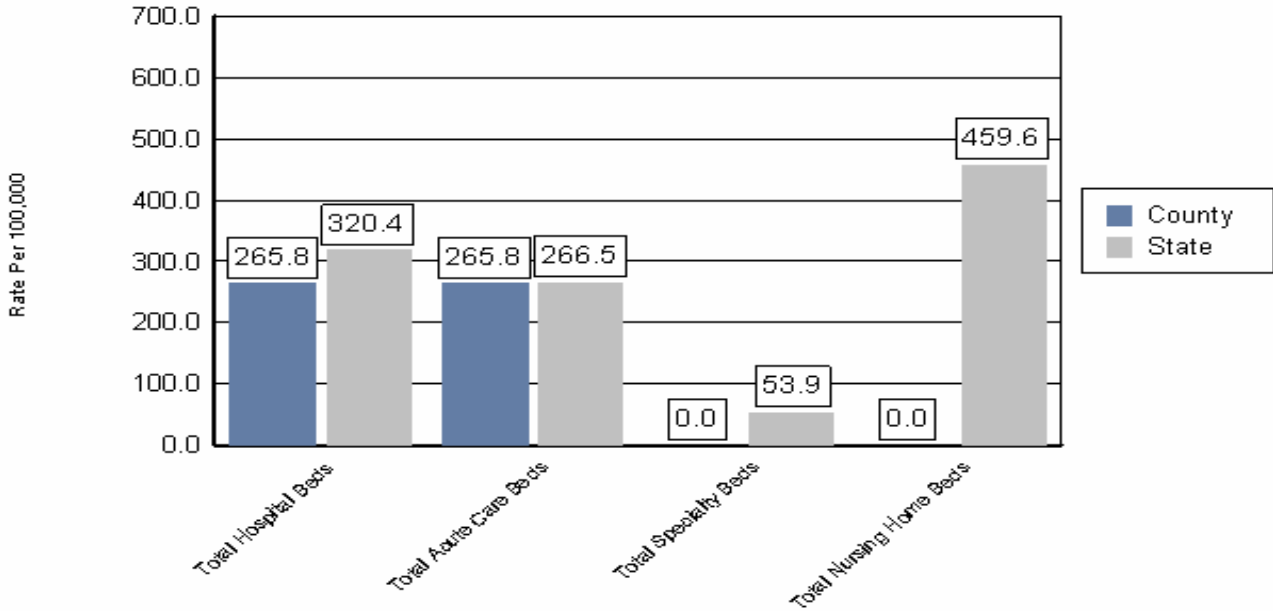
	Franklin County			State
	#	Rate per 100,000	Quartile	Rate per 100,000
<b>Providers*</b>				
Total Licensed Dentists (Fiscal Year)	2	18.3	2	61.4
Total Licensed Physicians (Fiscal Year)	8	73.3	2	279.7
Total Licensed Family Practice Physicians (Fiscal Year)	1	9.2	2	16.6
Total Licensed Internists (Fiscal Year)	2	18.3	2	45.2
Total Licensed OB/GYN (Fiscal Year)	1	9.2	4	9.5
Total Licensed Pediatricians (Fiscal Year)	1	9.2	3	17.1
<b>Facilities</b>				
Total Hospital Beds	29	265.8	3	320.4
Total Acute Care Beds	29	265.8	3	266.5
Total Specialty Beds	0	0.0	1	53.9
Total Nursing Home Beds	0	0.0	1	459.6
<b>County Health Departments</b>				
County Public Health Department Full-Time Employees	35	320.4	4	61.0
County Public Health Department Expenditures	1,934,106	17,729,453.6	4	3,849,945.9

Data Sources: Division of Medical Quality Assurance and Office of Planning, Evaluation and Data Analysis, Florida Depart. Of Health; Florida Agency for Health Care Administration.

\*Data for providers are for a fiscal year, not a calendar year.

Source: Florida Community Health Assessment Resource Tool Set, 2007.

**Figure 11**  
**Health Care Facilities per 100,000**  
**Franklin County and State, 2005**

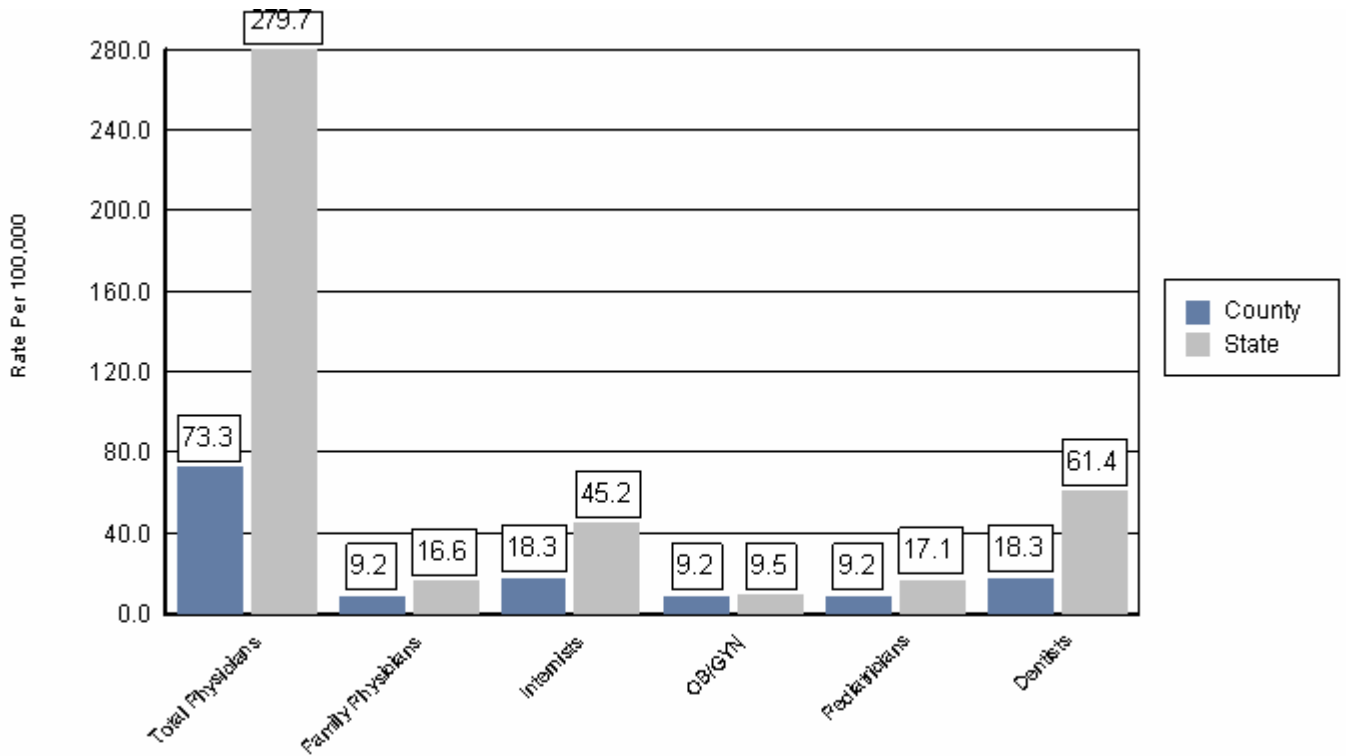


Source: Florida Community Health Assessment Resource Tool Set, 2007.

There are a total of eight physicians in Franklin County. The population to physician ratio for the County is 1,351:1 (or 1,351 populations per physician).

The County has a total of five primary care physicians. These are one family practice physician, one ob/gyn, and one pediatrician or 10,810 populations per primary care physician for each category mentioned. The County also has two internists or 5,405 populations per internist.

**Figure 12**  
**Health Providers per 100,000**  
**Franklin County and State, 2005**



Source: Florida Community Health Assessment Resource Tool Set, 2007.

**Table 14**  
**Franklin County Permitted**  
**Emergency Medical Services (EMS) and**  
**Advanced Life Support (ALS) Vehicles: 2003**

# of EMS Vehicles	Population per Vehicle	# of ALS Vehicles	Population Per Vehicle
3	3,854	3	3,854

Source: Florida Department of Health, Bureau of Emergency Medical Services

**C. RESOURCE UTILIZATION**

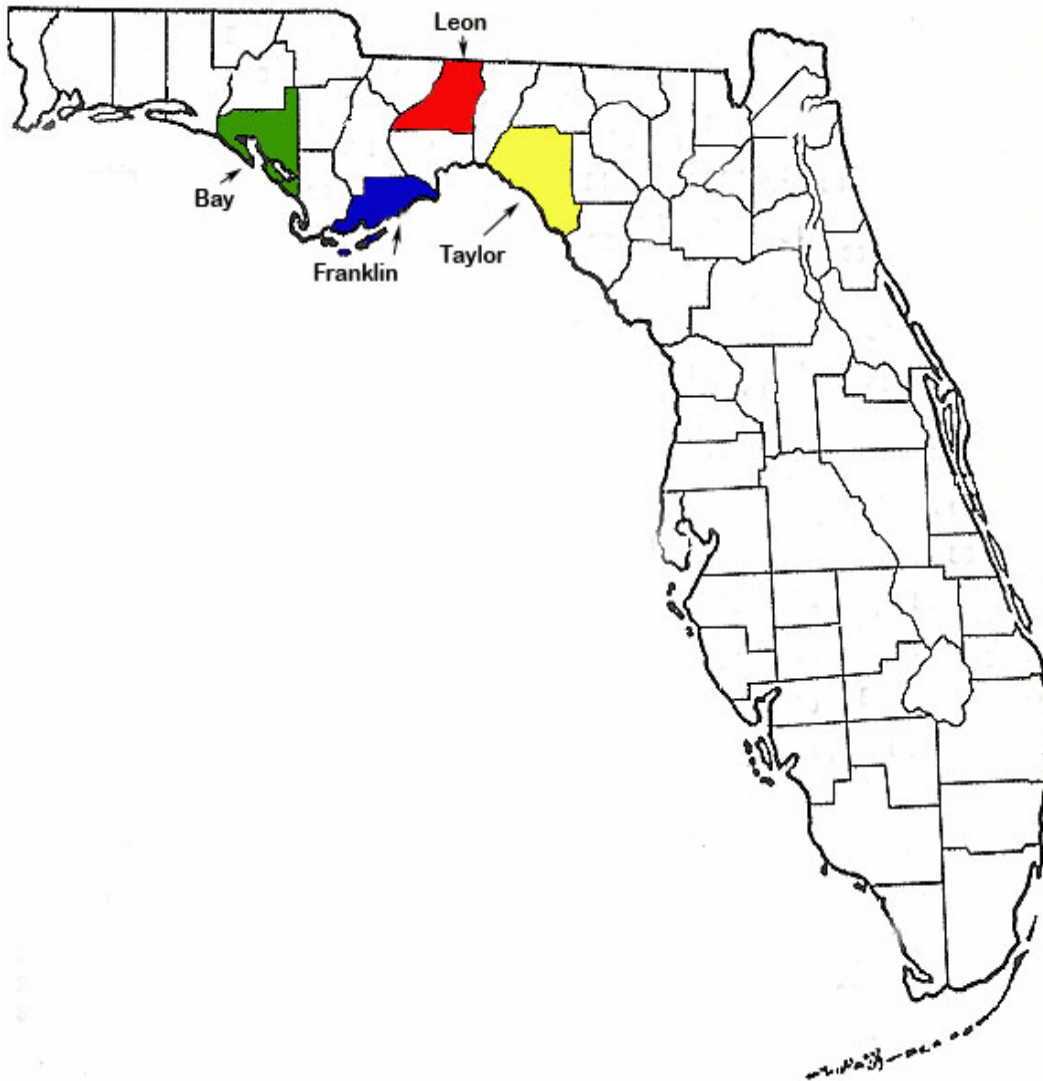
George E. Weems Memorial Hospital (GE WEEMS) in Franklin County is licensed for 25 beds. It was established as a Critical Access Hospital in June, 2001. In general, a Critical Access Hospital may not have more than 15 beds with another 10 “swing beds” allowed (these are inpatient beds which may also be used for other services such as part of a skilled nursing facility). Average annual length of stay for all inpatients must be 96 hours (4 days) or less. Emergency services must be available 24 hours per day, seven days per week. GE WEEMS serves all of Franklin County.

1) Utilization Analysis

**Table 15**  
**Selected Regional Hospitals**

Hospital	Acronym	County
George E. Weems Memorial Hospital	GE WEEMS	Franklin
Bay Medical Center	BMC	Bay
Capital Regional Medical Center	CRMC	Leon
Tallahassee Memorial Hospital	TMH	Leon
Doctor's Memorial Hospital – Perry	DMH	Taylor

**Figure 13**



Source for Map: Broward Regional Health Planning Council, Inc.

**Table 16**  
**Selected Hospital Utilization, CY 2006**

	<b>Beds</b>	<b>Patient Days</b>	<b>Admissions</b>	<b>% Occupancy</b>	<b>Length of Stay</b>	<b>Daily Census</b>
BMC	323	78,183	17,032	66.3	4.6	214
GE WEEMS	25	1,486	478	16.3	3.1	4
CRMC	160	40,162	9,023	68.8	4.5	110
TMH	567	91,156	21,459	44	4.2	250
DMH	48	7,635	2,696	43.6	2.8	21
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>1,123</b>	<b>218,622</b>	<b>50,688</b>	<b>47.8</b>	<b>3.84</b>	<b>119.8</b>

Source: Big Bend Health Council Hospital Surveys, Ongoing.

**Table 17**  
**Hospital Utilization**  
**2004-2006 Average**

	<b>Year</b>	<b>BMC</b>	<b>GE WEEMS</b>	<b>CRMC</b>	<b>TMH</b>	<b>DMH</b>	<b>AVERAGE</b>
Beds	2006	323	25	160	567	48	1,123
	2005	323	25	198	567	48	1,161
	2004	313	25	160	567	48	1,113
	<b>3 year average</b>	<b>320</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>173</b>	<b>567</b>	<b>48</b>	<b>1,132</b>
Patient Days	2006	78,183	1,486	40,162	91,156	7,635	218,622
	2005	76,685	1,155	41,158	94,034	8,258	221,290
	2004	73,125	2,508	41,393	93,003	8,480	218,509
	<b>3 year average</b>	<b>75,998</b>	<b>1,716</b>	<b>40,904</b>	<b>92,731</b>	<b>8,124</b>	<b>219,474</b>
Admissions	2006	17,032	478	9,023	21,459	2,696	50,688
	2005	16,906	428	8,811	22,124	2,250	50,519
	2004	15,008	564	8,953	21,639	2,651	48,815
	<b>3 year average</b>	<b>16,315</b>	<b>490</b>	<b>8,929</b>	<b>21,741</b>	<b>2,532</b>	<b>50,007</b>
% Occupancy	2006	66	16	69	44	44	48
	2005	65	13	57	45	47	45
	2004	64	27	71	45	48	51
	<b>3 year average</b>	<b>65</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>66</b>	<b>45</b>	<b>46</b>	<b>48</b>
Length of Stay	2006	5	3	5	4	3	4
	2005	5	3	5	4	4	4
	2004	5	4	5	4	3	4
	<b>3 year average</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>
Daily Census	2006	214	4	110	250	21	120
	2005	210	3	113	258	23	121
	2004	200	7	113	254	23	119
	<b>3 year average</b>	<b>208</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>112</b>	<b>254</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>120</b>

Source: Big Bend Health Council Hospital Surveys, Ongoing.

During 2005, a total of 1,552 Franklin County residents were discharged from various Florida hospitals. Of the 1,552 Franklin County resident discharges, 38.1 percent were from hospitals in Leon County.

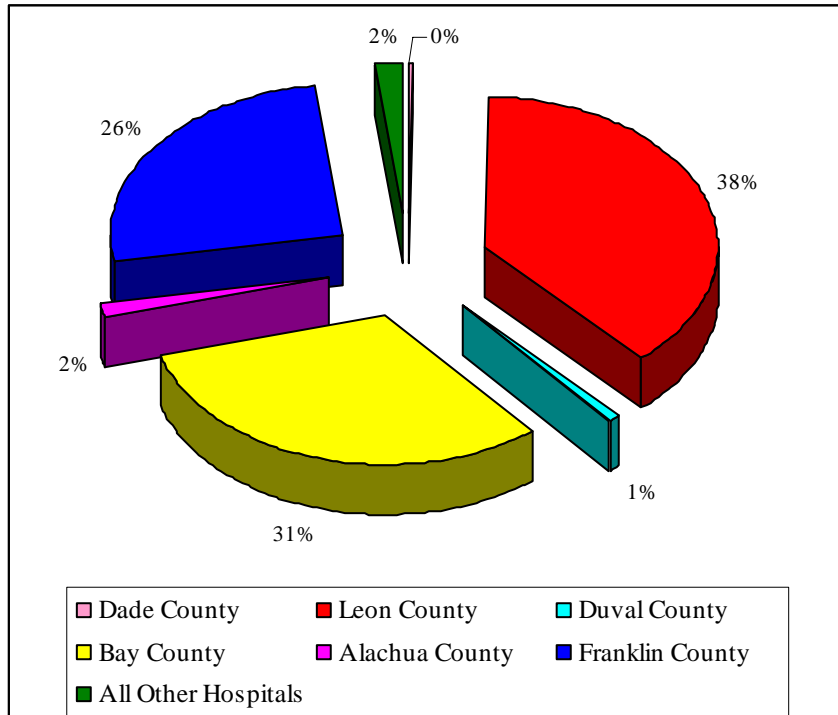
Table 18 illustrates CY 2005 Franklin County resident discharges by facility.

**Table 18**  
**Franklin County Resident Discharges by Facility**  
**CY 2005**

Hospital	Patient Discharges	% of Total Discharges
<b>Franklin County</b>	<b>400</b>	<b>25.8%</b>
<b>George E. Weems Memorial Hospital</b>	<b>400</b>	<b>25.8%</b>
Leon County	591	38.1%
Tallahassee Memorial Hospital	404	26.0%
Capital Regional Medical Center	169	10.9%
Eastside Psychiatric Hospital	18	1.2%
Bay County	486	31.3%
Bay Medical Center	264	17.0%
Gulf Coast Medical Center	211	13.6%
Bay Medical Behavioral Health Center	11	0.7%
Alachua County	28	1.8%
Shands Hospital at the Univ. of Florida	28	1.8%
Duval County	14	0.9%
Saint Luke's Hospital	10	0.6%
Baptist Medical Center	4	0.3%
Dade County	4	0.3%
Miami Children's Hospital	4	0.3%
All Other Hospitals	29	1.9%
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>1,552</b>	<b>100.0%</b>

Source: Florida Agency for Health Care Administration, 2005

**Figure 14**  
**Franklin County Resident Hospital Discharges, 2005**  
**By Facility**



Source: Florida Agency for Health Care Administration, 2005.

Table 19 illustrates CY 2005 Franklin County resident discharges by facility and payor source.

**Table 19**  
**Franklin County Resident Discharges by Facility and Payor Source**  
**CY 2005**

Payor Source	Franklin County Residents		Total Discharges	
	Number	%	Number	%
Medicare	258	64.5%	285	65.1%
Medicaid	34	8.5%	35	8.0%
Commerical Insurance	54	13.5%	62	14.2%
Workers' comp	1	0.3%	1	0.2%
Self Pay/Underinsured	53	13.3%	55	12.6%
<b>Total</b>	<b>400</b>	<b>100.0%</b>	<b>438</b>	<b>100.0%</b>

Source: George E. Weems Memorial Hospital Utilization Report, June, 2007.

**5. KEY INFORMANT INTERVIEWS - FRANKLIN COUNTY CITIZEN SURVEY**

Public Health Associates, LLC was funded to ascertain public opinions about the health care services available to residents of Franklin County. A telephone survey of 558 respondents, 18 years of age or older was conducted between March 22 and April 8, 2006. The survey was administered via Computer Assisted Telephone Interviewing (CATI) system and the response rate was 58%.

**Table 20  
Survey Respondents by Age**

<b>Age Categories</b>				
	<b>Survey</b>	<b>% Survey</b>	<b>Franklin County</b>	<b>% County</b>
0-24	14	3%	2,971	27%
25-44	10	2%	2,595	24%
45-64	242	43%	3,295	30%
65+	195	35%	2,032	19%
Refused	6	1%	-	0%
Don't Know	1	0%	-	0%
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>558</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>10,893</b>	<b>100%</b>
Under 65	363	52%	9,864	75%
Over 65	195	32%	1,029	24%

Source for 2005 Population Estimates: Executive Office of the Governor

**Table 21  
Survey Respondents by Race**

<b>Race Categories</b>				
	<b>Survey</b>	<b>% Survey</b>	<b>Franklin County</b>	<b>% County</b>
White	499	89%	9,616	88%
Black	43	8%	1,236	11%
Hispanic	0	0%	57	1%
Refused	9	2%	0	0%
Other	7	1%	0	0%
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>558</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>10,909</b>	<b>100%</b>

Source for 2005 Population Estimates: Executive Office of the Governor

**Table 22**  
**Highest grade or year of school completed**

	Survey	% Survey	Franklin County	% County
1st through 11th	73	13%	2,603	32%
High or GED	177	32%	2,983	36%
1-3 years college	134	24%	1,598	19%
College Grad	103	19%	513	6%
Post Graduate	63	11%	505	6%
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>550</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>8,202</b>	<b>100%</b>

County Population Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2000 Census

**Table 23**  
**Total Household Income**

	Survey #	Survey %
< \$10,000	43	7.7%
\$10,000 - \$25,000	84	15.1%
\$25,000 - \$35,000	64	11.5%
\$35,000 - \$45,000	47	8.4%
\$45,000 - \$60,000	69	12.4%
>\$60,000	128	22.9%
Refused	93	16.7%
Don't Know	30	5.4%
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>558</b>	<b>100.0%</b>
<b>2005 Per Capita Personal Income</b>		
Franklin County	\$ 26,133	
Florida	\$ 34,001	

Source for 2005 per Capita Personal Income: Florida Community Health Assessment Resource Tool Set, 2007

**Table 24**  
**Length of Franklin County Residence**

	Survey	% Survey
< 1 year	7	1%
1-3 years	62	11%
4-5 years	26	5%
5-10 years	78	14%
> 10 years	382	68%
Don't Know	3	1%
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>558</b>	<b>100%</b>

**Table 25**

**Do you or your family currently have any health insurance?**

	<b>Survey</b>	<b>% Survey</b>
Yes	446	80%
No	109	20%
Don't Know	3	1%
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>558</b>	<b>100%</b>

**Table 26**

**What type of health insurance do you (or your family) have?**

	<b>Survey</b>	<b>% Survey</b>
Medicare	130	29%
Medicaid	24	5%
Private/HMO/PPO	263	59%
Military	17	4%
Other	5	1%
Don't Know	7	2%
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>446</b>	<b>100%</b>

**Table 27**

**Do you consider your health to be?**

	<b>Survey</b>	<b>% Survey</b>
Excellent	136	24%
Good	217	39%
Fair	138	25%
Poor	63	11%
Don't Know	4	1%
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>558</b>	<b>100%</b>

**Table 28**

**Quality of medical care available in Franklin County:**

	<b>Survey</b>	<b>% Survey</b>
Very Satisfied	84	15%
Somewhat Satisfied	157	28%
Somewhat Dissatisfied	109	20%
Very Dissatisfied	149	27%
Don't Know	59	11%
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>558</b>	<b>100%</b>

**Table 29**  
**Do you have a regular doctor whom you can call when you or your family needs medical care?**

	Survey	% Survey
Yes	434	78%
No	121	22%
Don't Know	3	1%
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>558</b>	<b>100%</b>

**Table 30**  
**If yes, where is your regular doctor located?**

	Survey	% Survey
Franklin	298	69%
Bay	15	3%
Leon	56	13%
Gulf	17	4%
Other County	45	10%
Don't Know	3	1%
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>434</b>	<b>100%</b>

**Table 31**  
**Why do you go to a doctor in Franklin or some other County?**

	Leon		Gulf		Bay		Other		Total Non-Franklin		Franklin		Total	
	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%
Convenience, Location	10	17.9%	0	0.0%	1	6.7%	27	60.0%	38	28.6%	208	69.8%	246	57.1%
Insurance	5	8.9%	1	5.9%	1	6.7%	2	4.4%	9	6.8%	6	2.0%	15	3.5%
Cost	1	1.8%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	1	2.2%	2	1.5%	7	2.3%	9	2.1%
Specialist	9	16.1%	2	11.8%	4	26.7%	2	4.4%	17	12.8%	9	3.0%	26	6.0%
Doctor's Reputation, Long-time Patient, Doctor is a Friend	22	39.3%	12	70.6%	5	33.3%	8	17.8%	47	35.3%	41	13.8%	88	20.4%
Regular Checkups	1	1.8%	0	0.0%	1	6.7%	0	0.0%	2	1.5%	9	3.0%	11	2.6%
Doctor Makes House Calls	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	3	1.0%	3	0.7%
Referral	2	3.6%	1	5.9%	0	0.0%	1	2.2%	4	3.0%	3	1.0%	7	1.6%
Military Base	5	8.9%	0	0.0%	1	6.7%	1	2.2%	7	5.3%	0	0.0%	7	1.6%
Depends on the Problem	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	2	0.7%	2	0.5%
Other	1	1.8%	1	5.9%	2	13.3%	3	6.7%	7	5.3%	10	3.4%	17	3.9%
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>56</b>	<b>100.0%</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>100.0%</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>100.0%</b>	<b>45</b>	<b>100.0%</b>	<b>133</b>	<b>100.0%</b>	<b>298</b>	<b>100.0%</b>	<b>431</b>	<b>100.0%</b>

**Table 32**  
**Have you personally received services at Franklin County Health Department?**

	Survey	% Survey
Yes	280	50%
No	270	48%
Don't Know	8	1%
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>558</b>	<b>100%</b>

**Table 33**  
**If yes, how satisfied were you with those services?**

	Survey	% Survey
Very Satisfied	198	71%
Somewhat Satisfied	64	23%
Somewhat Dissatisfied	7	3%
Very Dissatisfied	9	3%
Don't Know	2	1%
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>280</b>	<b>100%</b>

**Table 34**  
**Would you go back to the Franklin County Health Department for specific medical services if they were available there?**

	Survey	% Survey
Yes	240	86%
No	30	11%
Don't Know	10	4%
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>280</b>	<b>100%</b>

**Table 35**  
**If no, why not?**

	Survey	
	#	%
Not a hospital	1	3.3%
Reputation	11	36.7%
Insurance (they do not accept a patient who has insurance)	4	13.3%
Have a regular doctor	7	23.3%
Have a specialist	2	6.7%
Don't need their services	2	6.7%
Other	3	10.0%
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>100.0%</b>

**Table 36**

**If you or someone in your family needed to emergency care or to go to a hospital overnight for a medical problem, which hospital would you go to?**

	Location	Emergency		Overnight	
		#	%	#	%
GE WEEMS	Franklin County	282	50.5%	150	26.9%
Capital Regional Medical Center	Leon	42	7.5%	54	9.7%
Tallahassee Memorial Hospital	Leon	86	15.4%	143	25.6%
Bay Medical Hospital	Bay	91	16.3%	137	24.6%
Gulf Coast Hospital	Bay	12	2.2%	22	3.9%
Other Hospital		19	3.4%	21	3.8%
Don't Know		26	4.7%	31	5.6%
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>558</b>	<b>100.0%</b>	<b>558</b>	<b>100.0%</b>

**Table 37**

**Why would you go to this hospital?**

	Survey	
	#	%
Convenience, Location	161	28.9%
Insurance	3	0.5%
Cost	1	0.2%
Specialist	10	1.8%
Doctor's Reputation, Hospital Reputation	317	56.8%
Referral	9	1.6%
Military/VA	4	0.7%
Depends on the Problem	15	2.7%
Other	20	3.6%
Don't Know	18	3.2%
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>558</b>	<b>100.0%</b>

**Table 38**

**Have you or someone in your family ever been a patient in Weems Hospital?**

	Survey	%
Yes	406	73%
No	149	27%
Don't Know	3	1%
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>558</b>	<b>100%</b>

**Table 39**  
**Rate the overall quality of care and services you (or someone in your family) received.**

	Survey	% Survey
Excellent	108	27%
Good	150	37%
Fair	86	21%
Poor	54	13%
Don't Know	8	2%
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>406</b>	<b>100%</b>

**Table 40**  
**Which of the following is your highest priority for improving health care services in Franklin County?**

	Survey	
	#	%
More primary care physicians in Franklin County	123	22.0%
More medical specialty physicians in Franklin County	32	5.7%
More services available at the local hospital	78	14.0%
More ambulances in Franklin County	19	3.4%
All of the above	264	47.3%
Don't Know	42	7.5%
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>558</b>	<b>100.0%</b>

**Table 41**  
**Do you believe that your local elected officials are interested in improving the health care services in Franklin County?**

	Survey	% Survey
Yes	242	43%
No	177	32%
Don't Know	139	25%
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>558</b>	<b>100%</b>

**Table 42**  
**Do you think Franklin County should spend more money to improve available health care services in Franklin County?**

	Survey	% Survey
Yes	472	85%
No	29	5%
Don't Know	57	10%
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>558</b>	<b>100%</b>

**Table 43**  
**If yes, would you support a penny sales tax increase to improve health care services in Franklin County?**

	Survey	% Survey
Yes	391	83%
No	50	11%
Don't Know	31	7%
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>472</b>	<b>100%</b>

**Table 44**  
**Would you support a 1/2 mil increase in property taxes to improve available health care services in Franklin County?**

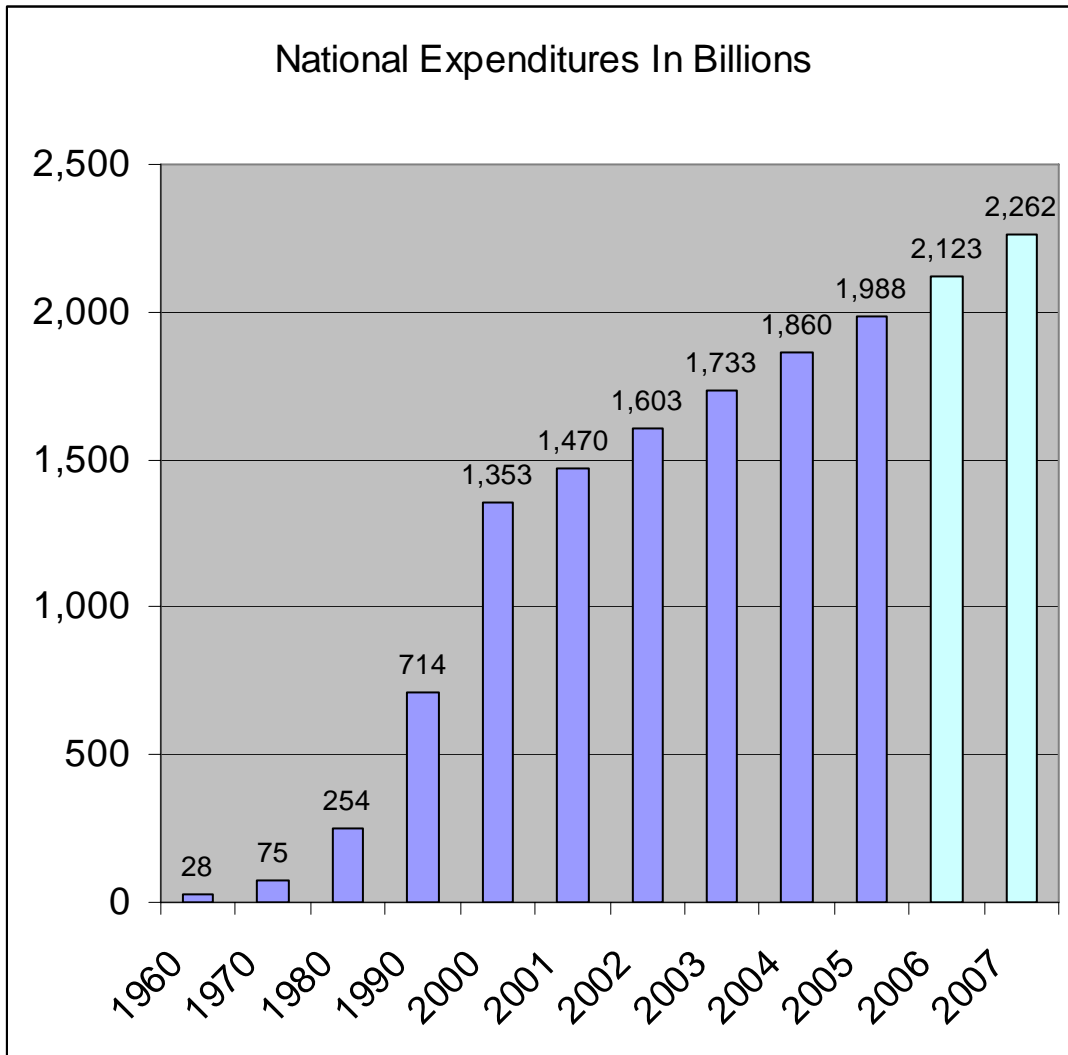
	Survey	% Survey
Yes	232	42%
No	244	44%
Don't Know	82	15%
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>558</b>	<b>100%</b>

**6. HEALTH CARE COSTS**

**A. Health Care Expenditures**

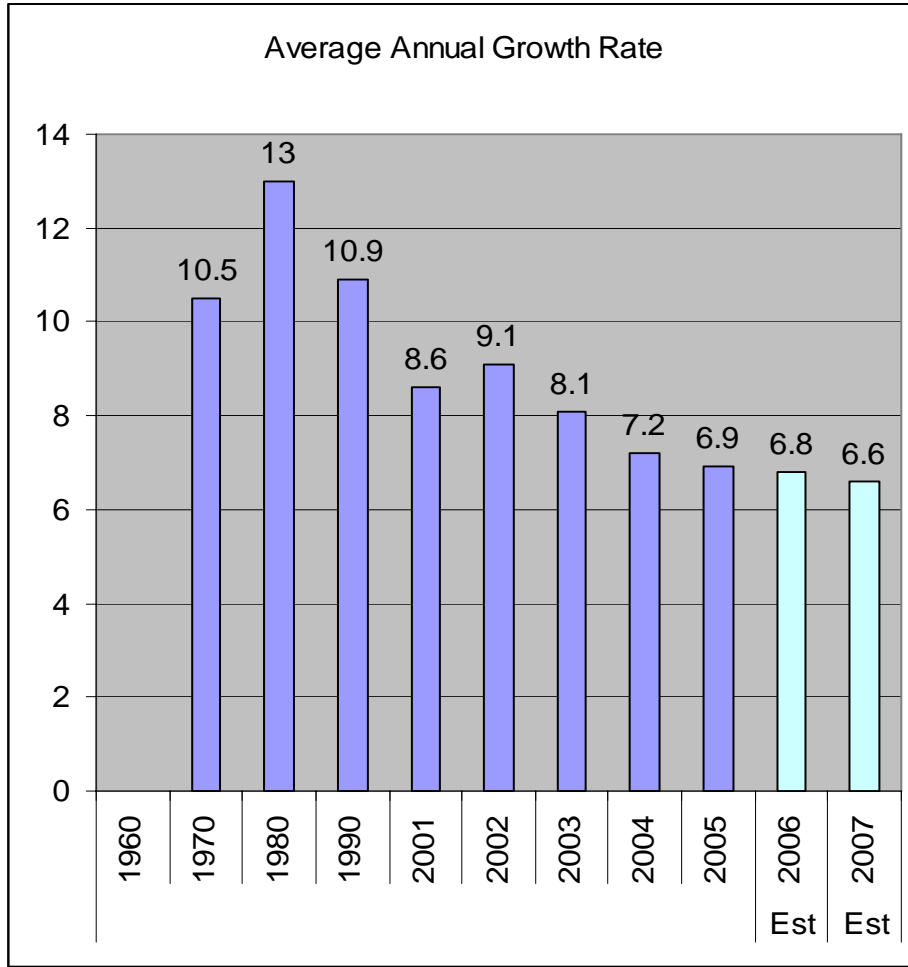
Significant increases in health care costs and in health insurance premiums have implications on a National, State and local scale. Annual health care spending in the U.S. has been increasing faster than the rate of inflation. Figure \_\_ present national health spending trends and Figure \_\_ presents national spending growth rates from 1960 to 2007.

**Figure 15**  
**National Health Care Expenditures in Billions**



Source: Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services, Office of the Actuary.

**Figure 16**  
**Average Annual Growth Rate in Expenditures**



Source: Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services, Office of the Actuary.

Table \_\_ displays a summary of Health Spending Changes for 1984-2004.

**Table 45**  
**Summary of Health Spending Changes for 1984-2004**

	Spending Levels			Spending Distribution		Growth Over 2004	
	2004	2003	1984				
NHE	1,878	1,741	404	100.0	100.0	137.0	7.9
Hospital Care	571	525	155	30.4	38.4	45.0	8.6
Physician and Clinical Services	400	367	77	21.3	18.9	33.0	9.0
Prescription Drugs	188	174	20	10.0	4.9	14.0	8.2
Dental/Other Professional	100	170	32	10.0	8.0	11.0	6.4
Nursing Home Care	115	110	28	6.1	6.9	5.0	4.3
Home Health Care	43	38	5	2.3	1.2	5.0	13.3
Other Medical Products	55	54	21	2.9	5.2	1.0	1.9
Administration	137	125	24	7.3	5.9	12.0	9.4
Government Public Health Activities	56	54	10	3.0	2.5	2.0	4.0
Investment	125	116	32	6.6	8.0	9.0	7.3

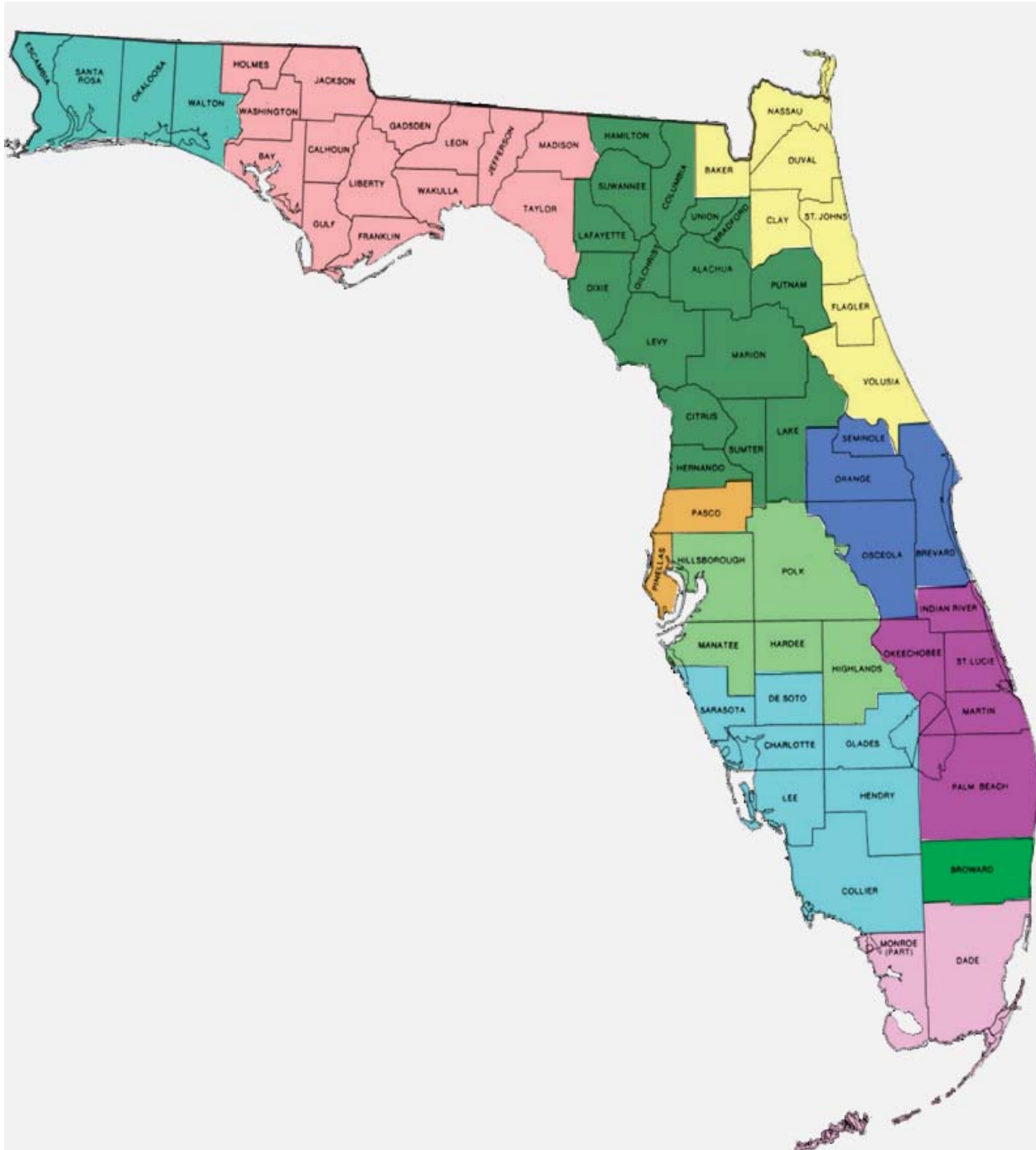
Source: Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services, Office of the Actuary.

**B. Health Care Financing**

Health care is financed through a variety of Federal, State and Local resources. Health care spending increasingly dominates all budgets (federal, state, localities, companies, universities, think tanks, families, etc.). The Brookings Institution reports that “Overall Americans pay a high price for a fragmented health system that delivers uneven care at high administrative cost and fails to cover some 46 million people with health insurance”.

The Florida Local Health Council is comprised of eleven not for profit community planning and implementation organizations created by Florida Statute, Chapter 408. Franklin County is located in District 2 which comprises the following counties: Bay, Calhoun, Franklin, Gadsden, Gulf, Holmes, Jackson, Jefferson, Leon, Liberty, Madison, Taylor, Wakulla and Washington. Figure \_\_ displays a map of the 11 Health Planning Areas within the State of Florida.

Figure17



Source: Florida Association of Health Planning Agencies, 2007

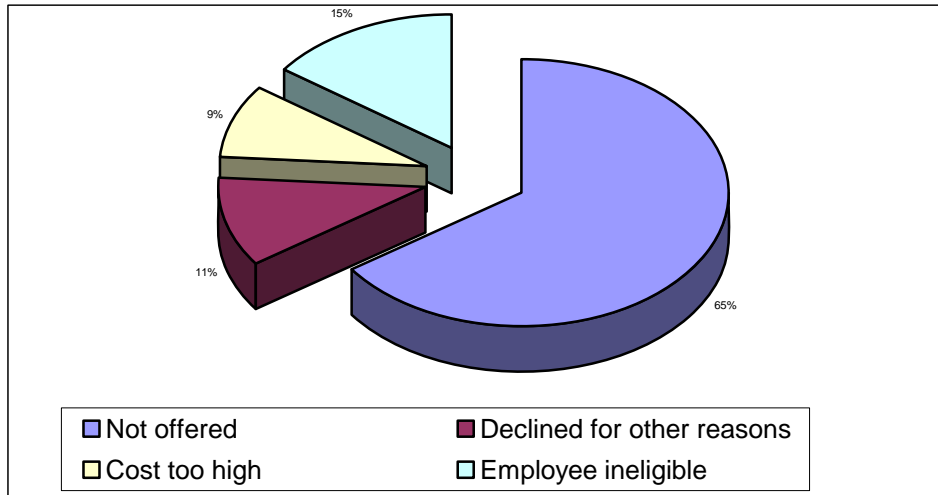
**1) Health Insurance**

In 1998, the Florida Legislature created the Florida Health Insurance Study (FHIS) to provide reliable estimates of the percentage and number of Floridians without health insurance—statewide, for various parts of the state, and for key demographic groups.

A State Planning Grant program of the Health Resources and Services Administration provided funding in 2004 to update the 1999 Florida study.

The August, 2005 Florida Health Insurance Study estimates that about 65.2 percent of uninsured employed Floridians age 18-64 years have employers who do not offer health insurance. 14.9 percent have employers who offer health insurance, but are not eligible for coverage. 9.0 report that their employer offers insurance and that they are eligible, but that the employee premium is too high.

**Figure \_\_**  
**Availability of Employment-Based Health Insurance for Uninsured Employed Floridians Age 18-64**



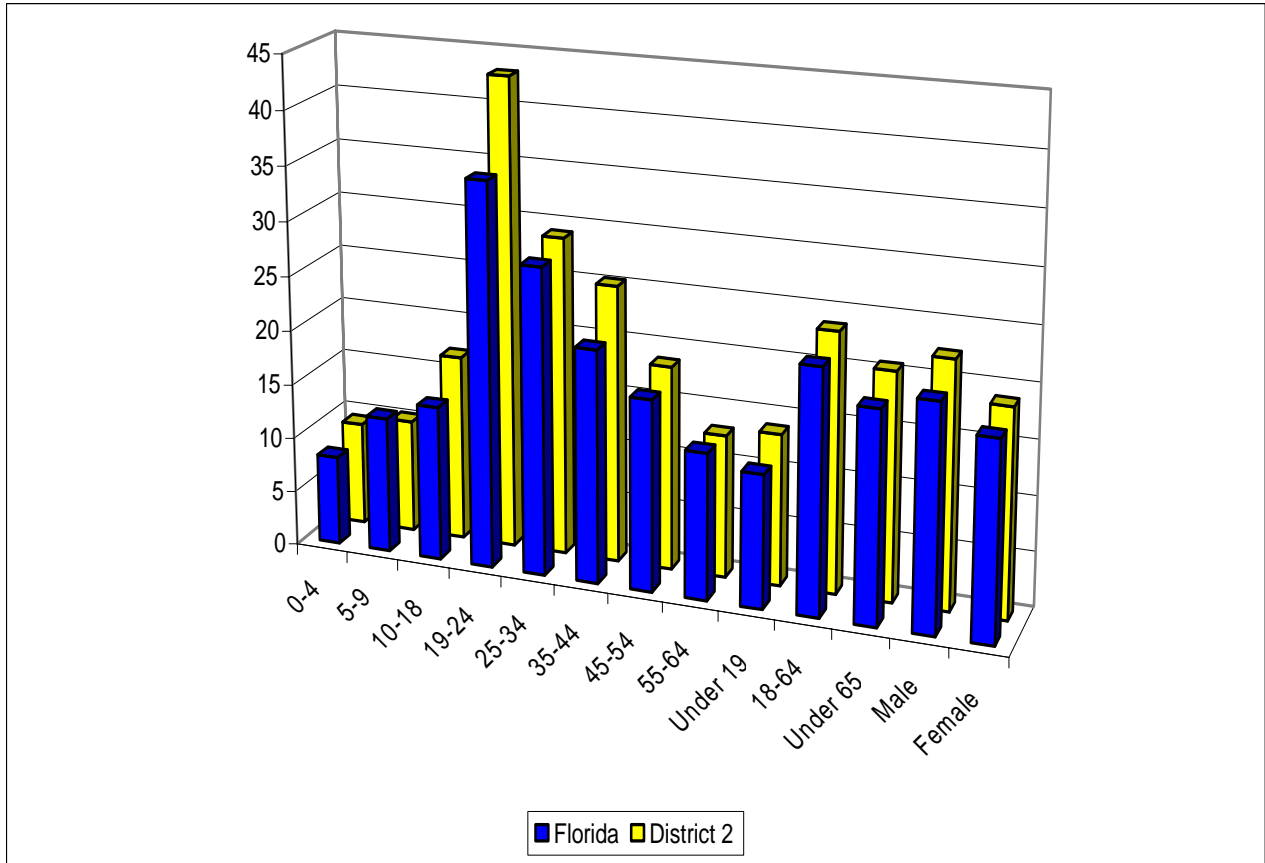
By far the most commonly cited answer to the question, "What is the main reason that you do not have health insurance?" was "Too expensive/can't afford it/premium too high." Fully 74.1 percent of respondents cited this reason for not having health insurance. By contrast, only 4.0 percent of respondents indicated that they "Don't need health insurance/usually healthy" and 2.5 percent cited "Medical problems/pre-existing conditions" as the main reason for their lack of health insurance. Those individuals who responded "Other" were allowed to specify their preferred answer. This resulted in 3.0 percent of respondents indicating that the main reason that they do not have health insurance was that their employer did not offer health insurance.

**Table 46**  
**Percent of Uninsured Floridians under Age 65**  
**Specific Age Category and Gender,**  
**Florida and District 2 for 1999 and 2004**

Age (Years)	Florida		District 2	
	1999	2004	1999	2004
0-4	11.9	8.1	9.4	9.4
5-9	12.7	12.4	14.4	10.3
10-18	14.8	14.1	19.8	17
19-24	27.1	35.1	19.6	43.1
25-34	22	28	25.3	29.1
35-44	17	21.2	20.7	25.3
45-54	13.3	17.4	17.9	18.6
55-64	12.7	13.3	17.5	13
Under 19	13.9	12.1	15.8	13.8
18-64	17.9	22.2	20.1	23.6
Under 65	16.8	19.2	18.9	20.7
Male	17	20.5	17.9	22.4
Female	16.4	18	19.8	18.9

Source: Florida Health Insurance Study, August 2005

**Figure 18**  
**Percent of Uninsured Floridians under Age 65**  
**Specific Age Category and Gender,**  
**Florida and District 2 for 1999 and 2004**



Source: Florida Health Insurance Study, August 2005

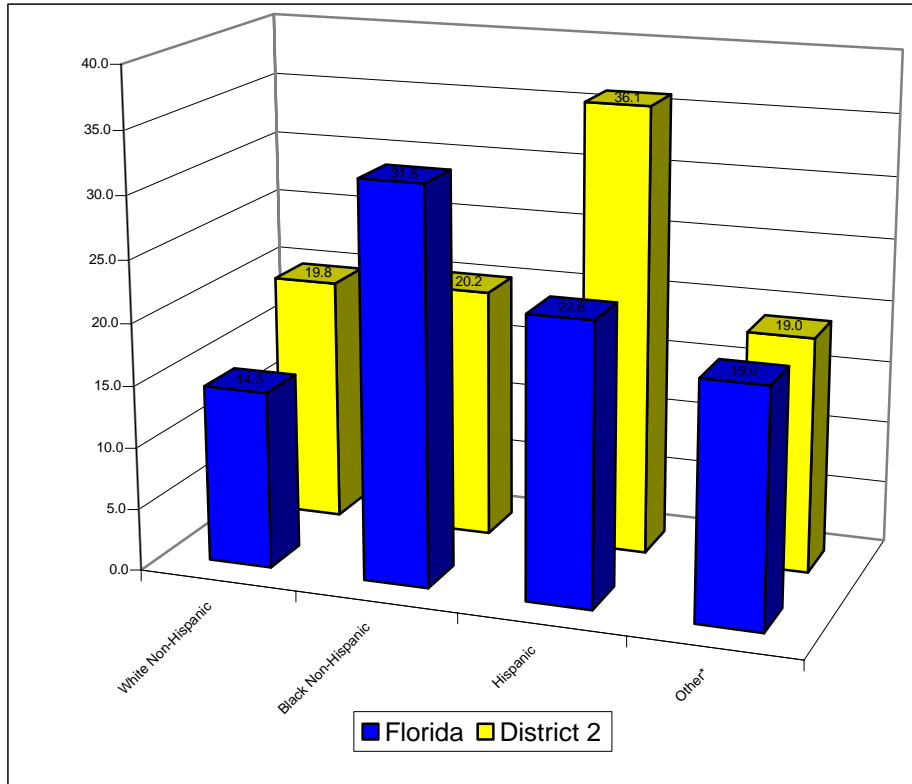
Florida has emerged over the last thirty years as one of the most ethnically diverse states in the nation. While this diversity adds layers of richness to Florida’s culture, it also poses important challenges. One of the most telling insights of the FHIS points to significant variations in uninsurance between ethnic groups. The rate of uninsurance among Hispanic Floridians is more than twice the rate of white non-Hispanics, and nearly 50 percent greater than African-Americans. In fact, Hispanics comprise nearly 25 percent of Florida’s uninsured. As with all other ethnic groups, the rates of uninsurance vary widely by region.

**Table 47**  
**Percent of Uninsured Floridians under Age 65**  
**By Race and Ethnicity Florida and District 2**  
**1999 and 2004**

Race	Florida		District 2	
	1994	2004	1994	2004
White Non-Hispanic	13.2	14.3	18.7	19.8
Black Non-Hispanic	28.6	31.8	13.1	20.2
Hispanic	19.6	22.6	48.9	36.1
Other*	27.4	19.0	31.9	19.0

\* Includes American Indians, Asians and mixed race  
 Source: Florida Health Insurance Study, August 2005

**Figure 19**  
**Percent of Uninsured Floridians under Age 65**  
**By Race and Ethnicity Florida and District 2**  
**1999 and 2004**



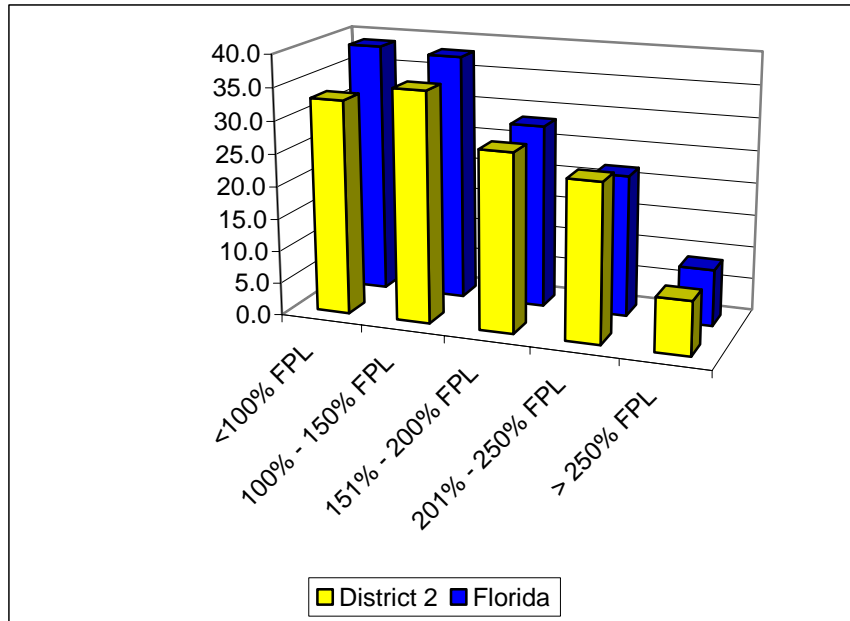
\* Includes American Indians, Asians and mixed race  
 Source: Florida Health Insurance Study, August 2005

**Table 48**  
**Percent of Uninsured Floridians under Age 65**  
**By Income as a Percent of Federal Poverty Level (FPL)**  
**Florida and District 2**  
**1999 and 2004**

Federal Poverty Level (FPL)	Florida		District 2	
	1994	2004	1994	2004
<100% FPL	34.5	38.8	29.2	33.0
100% - 150% FPL	34.0	38.0	37.3	35.4
151% - 200% FPL	26.2	28.3	14.0	27.4
201% - 250% FPL	18.6	21.8	16.5	24.3
> 250% FPL	8.6	8.7	9.7	8.3

\* Includes American Indians, Asians and mixed race  
 Source: Florida Health Insurance Study, August 2005

**Figure 20**  
**Percent of Uninsured Floridians under Age 65**  
**By Income as a Percent of Federal Poverty Level (FPL)**  
**Florida and District 2**  
**1999 and 2004**

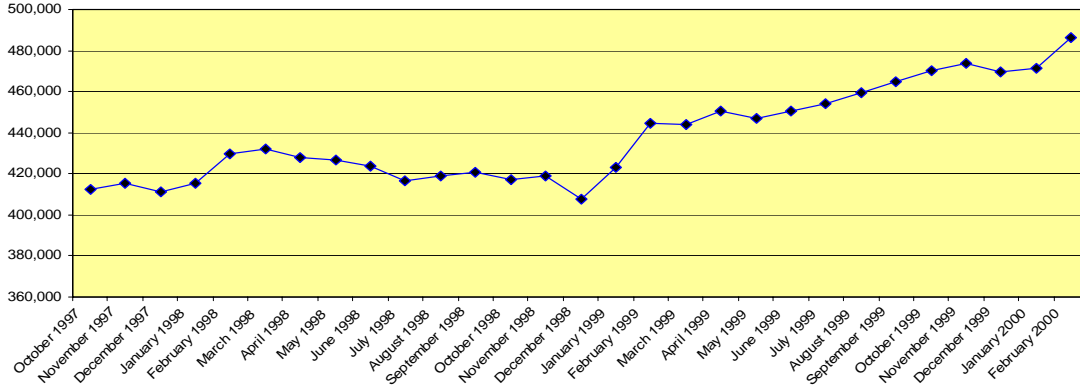


\* Includes American Indians, Asians and mixed race  
 Source: Florida Health Insurance Study, August 2005

2) Medicaid

Figure 21

Florida Medicaid Enrollment Trends Adults



Over 63,000 adults were added to the Medicaid Program since January 1999

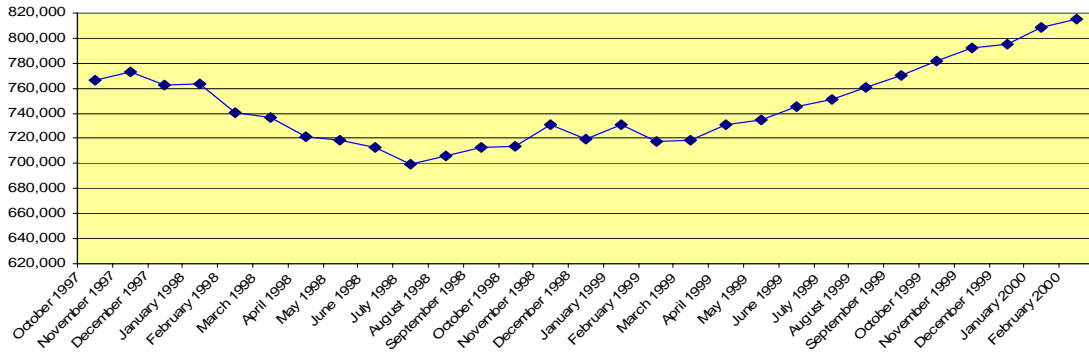
Source Medicaid Data: The Agency for Health Care Administration

Note: In April 1999, The Florida Agency for Health Care Administration changed the Medicaid age groups for reporting from 18-21 to 19-22. In order to provide comparison, the number of 19 year olds has been extrapolated from the 18-21 numbers for months prior to April 1999.

**Figure 22**

## Florida Medicaid /Title XIX Enrollment Trends for Children ages 0-18 October 1997 - February 2000

Over 84,000 children were added to the Medicaid Program since January 1999



In April 1999, The Florida Agency for Health Care Administration changed the Medicaid age groups for reporting from 11-17 to 11-18. In order to provide comparison, the number of 18 year olds has been extrapolated from 11-17 and 18-21 numbers for months prior to April 1999.

Source: Agency for Health Care Administration Medicaid Data

3) Public Assistance Enrollment-State and County

**Table 49**  
**Public Assistance: Florida and Franklin County**  
**Months of August, 1997-2006, 2007\***

	Year	Food Stamp Households	Food Stamp Clients	TANF Clients	TANF Families	Medicaid Clients
Florida	1997	496,014	1,152,030	394,343	148,026	1,467,844
	1998	431,929	992,885	247,803	96,444	1,049,062
	1999	444,462	959,312	181,701	76,108	1,082,658
	2000	424,974	915,575	140,727	64,098	1,179,585
	2001	435,559	915,328	128,669	59,592	1,329,788
	2002	480,133	1,016,069	128,461	59,804	1,533,838
	2003	524,668	1,089,180	128,494	59,807	1,650,006
	2004	622,178	1,283,725	122,218	59,202	1,762,558
	2005	627,876	1,281,087	101,801	58,371	1,851,563
	2006	619,232	1,233,618	82,482	50,294	1,781,913
	2007	655,713*	1,276,531*	77,813	46,603	1,682,352*
Franklin	1997	301	692	155	60	1,215
	1998	241	558	81	34	780
	1999	251	562	41	24	1,017
	2000	241	527	58	27	1,121
	2001	234	525	77	36	1,197
	2002	209	438	47	30	1,217
	2003	236	503	41	24	1,057
	2004	335	701	36	24	1,023
	2005	410	853	44	30	1,318
	2006	365	785	35	24	1,306
	2007	417*	840*	57	36	1,194*

\* July, 2007

Source: <http://www.dcf.state.fl.us/ess/reports/caseload.xls>, Area 10 Medicaid office

## **7. ANALYSIS**

This report provides data to inform the prioritization of health care services in Franklin County to improve the delivery and quality and health care services. Franklin County is a Federally Qualified Medically Underserved Area. The Chronic Disease Profile and Mortality comparisons rank Franklin County residents below the State of Florida in almost all areas. Resource availability in Franklin County is well below that of the State of Florida average. Less than 50% of residents utilized Franklin County for their outpatient services and less than 25% of residents utilized Franklin County inpatient services. Residents cited lack of specialists, lack of physicians and lack of services as the primary reason for seeking services outside of Franklin County.

The Franklin County Citizen Survey conducted in 2006 indicates that 43% of the respondents believe that local elected officials are interested in improving health care services in Franklin County. The survey further concludes that 85% of respondents think that Franklin County should spend more money to improve available health care services in Franklin County. Finally, 83% of survey respondents would support a penny sales tax increase to improve health care services in Franklin County.

## **8. RECOMMENDATIONS**

### **A. SALES TAX**

On November 6, 2007 the residents of Franklin County will be given the opportunity to vote to improve the delivery of healthcare in Franklin County. In a special referendum, the voters of Franklin County will make their desires known regarding a one-cent sales tax that will be levied only on the same items that currently has a sales tax. Food, drugs and other items that are currently not taxed will not be taxed. All taxes will be collected at the time of purchase just as they currently are. The taxes will begin being collected January 1, 2008.

According to the Florida Department of revenue, a one cent sales tax for all of Franklin County will generate approximately two million dollars. The cities of Apalachicola and Carrabelle will have to sign an agreement with the County in order for the County to receive all of the proceeds from the tax. All plans for the use of the tax are based on the cities of Apalachicola and Carrabelle agreeing with the County.

A Healthcare Trust Fund will be set up to receive the tax proceeds. The Trust Fund will be maintained by the Franklin County Clerk of the Court under the direction of the Weems Hospital Board as authorized and directed by the Franklin County Board of County Commissioners. The limited purpose of this Trust Fund will be to operate, construct, and maintain healthcare facilities and programs serving Franklin County, FL.

For the past few years the Franklin County Commissioners have allocated over a million per year from ad valorem taxes to help keep GE Weems Memorial Hospital and the ambulance service operational. In the County budget for the fiscal year 2007- 2008

another one million dollars has been allocated for the hospital and ambulance service. If the voters of Franklin County approve this one cent sales tax these ad valorem taxes would stop going to the hospital. The hospital and ambulance service would be supported solely from the proceeds of the sales tax.

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**B. USE OF THE SALES TAX**

According one County Commissioner, the proceeds of the sales tax should be used to, “Improve the delivery and quality of healthcare in Franklin County.” In order to accomplish this request it is necessary that this sales tax be used to provide both new facilities and new services. Based upon the healthcare needs of the county, the supporting demographics, and the financial data the following uses of the sales tax should be considered.

- 1) The first use of the sales tax proceeds will be to develop a new Medical Complex in Carrabelle. Carrabelle and the surrounding eastern part of Franklin County is the most medically underserved area of the County. Given its distance from any type of emergent care and the large influx of active tourist an Urgent Care Center is being considered. An Urgent Care Center would have enough diagnostic equipment to determine the plan of treatment for a patient along with treatment areas to handle minor emergencies. The hours of operation would be extended in the evening and the clinic should be open for weekend accidents and medical emergencies. This is not a free standing Emergency Room and will not be open twenty four hours a day seven days a week.

The building being considered is approximately 6000 square feet and has the design to easily be added on to in the future if necessary. It can house two physicians and will have space for rotating specialist. In addition it will have rehab space and other areas designated for reoccurring services such as dialysis or chemo therapy. As proposed the facility cost should be approximately as follows:

Building Construction Cost	\$600,000
Site Prep & Utilities	25,000
Furnishings & Med. Equip. Allow.	200,000
Fees & Other Soft Cost	<u>140,000</u>
Estimated Total	\$965,000

Land cost is yet to be determined because a specific site has not been located.

Revenues to pay for the facility will be accumulated from the tax proceeds collected during the time of planning and construction. The project could be completed by the end of the year 2009. During that time approximately \$1,660,000 would have been collected from one half cent of sales tax and be available to pay off a construction loan used to build the facility so that the facility could open with no debt.

- 2) The second use of the sales tax proceeds will be a replacement facility for the current Weems Memorial Hospital. The replacement facility is planned to be built at the

current location of the hospital. Given the cost of land and the site and utilities cost the current location allows the cost of the project to be within the budget of a one cent sales tax. Additionally, since the Federal Government has designated Weems Hospital as a Critical Access Hospital and endowed upon it the favorable reimbursement from Medicare and without this reimbursement it would not be financially feasible to do any capital healthcare improvements special consideration should be given to protect this status.

A new replacement hospital will be approximately 45,000 square feet. The hospital will maintain its current twenty five bed license with the ability to use all beds except the two proposed ICU beds as skilled swing beds. The planned patient services for the new hospital will include Emergency Services, Medical/ Surgical Nursing, Imaging Diagnostics, Surgery, Lab, Pharmacy, Sleep Center, Respiratory and Outpatient Care.

The timing of the replacement hospital is anticipated to be as follows:

April 2008—September 2008	Design of Facility
September 2008—January 2009	Equipment Planning
January 2009—April 2009	Licensing & Plan Review
April 2009—July 2009	Financing
July 2009—January 2011	Construction
January 2011—April 2011	Equipment Installation
April 2011	Open

- 3) The third purpose of the sales tax will be for the ongoing support of the hospital and ambulance operations. As the county continues to develop and attract new visitors and families to the area additional ambulances will need to be put in locations to cover the growth. Right now full time ambulances are in Lanark and Eastpoint. During times of high visitor traffic an ambulance is located on St. George Island on weekends. Right now plans are being studied that would provide for another ambulance to be in the county when one of the existing two is on a long run. An excellent ambulance service is very important to a county such as Franklin County given its remoteness and configuration.
  
- 4) Lastly the sales tax should be used to recruit new physicians to Franklin County. Both primary care physicians as well as specialist need to be brought to the area. Currently Weems is looking at working with teaching programs to provide a rural rotation for Family Practice residents. Tallahassee Memorial Hospital is working with Weems on telemedicine and rotating specialist. As TMH put it, "the relationship between our two hospitals is very important to all our patients within the area."

Additional clinical services, capital equipment replacement, advancing technologies and improving preventative care are some other items that will be looked at in the future. All of these will need some capital. This one cent sales tax can improve lifestyle and create an economic stimulus for the people of Franklin County.