

**Health Priorities Identified in Florida's State Health Improvement Plan (SHIP) and
Big Bend Counties' Community Health Improvement Plans (CHIPS)**

August 2024

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I. Introduction

The purpose of this report is to illustrate how the priorities identified in the Community Health Improvement Plans (CHIPs) of the fourteen counties in the Big Bend area align with one another and with the seven guiding priorities identified in Florida's 2022-2026 State Health Improvement Plan (SHIP). This alignment is significant because many residents rely on state supported resources and services as well as resources and services in their own and neighboring counties. These services and resources include primary, specialty, tertiary, long-term, maternal, and behavioral health care as well as recreation, education, employment, housing, and other services that influence individual and community health. Many funders of programs (including Florida Department of Health) which fund or provide these services often prefer to fund programs which offer effective and efficient multi-county or regional solutions. It is hoped that the information in this report will encourage multi-county or regional collaboration as communities strive to address their priority issues. Fortunately, Zoom and Teams help to minimize the need for county, regional, and state planners, providers, and consumers to travel long distances to plan, provide, and access a wide range of priority services and resources.

II. Florida's State Health Improvement Plan (SHIP)

This section was excerpted directly from the Florida State Health Improvement Plan website at [Home - Florida SHIP - State Health Improvement Plan](#).

Improving the Health of Floridians

The Florida State Health Improvement Plan sets out goals for Florida's public health system, which includes a range of stakeholders, such as state and local government agencies, health care providers, employers, community groups, universities and schools, nonprofit organizations, and advocacy groups.

The Steering Committee directed a comprehensive State Health Assessment to identify the most important health issues affecting Floridians, ensuring that selected priorities are supported by data about the health status of Florida's residents.

Florida's 2022-2026 State Health Improvement Plan

To drive health improvement and enhance the performance of Florida's public health system, leadership across the State of Florida assembled a diverse group of partners from various organizations to create a practical roadmap that enables and informs meaningful action. This collaborative process was deployed to promote inclusion and foster shared ownership of an actionable plan, which included compiling an assessment of the state's health, identifying priority health areas, and defining goals and objectives for advancing the health of Floridians. This process culminated in the development of Florida's State Health Improvement Plan (SHIP), which serves as a five-year blueprint for driving efficient and targeted collective action to enhance public health.

The 2022-2026 SHIP sets priorities in seven critical areas: Alzheimer's Disease and Related Dementias, Chronic Diseases and Conditions, Injury, Safety and Violence, Maternal and Child

Health, Mental Well-Being, and Substance Abuse Prevention, Social and Economic Conditions Impacting Health and Transmissible and Emerging Diseases.

Florida SHIP's Seven Guiding Priority Areas

1. Alzheimer's Disease and Related Dementias

Alzheimer's disease is an irreversible, progressive brain disorder that slowly destroys memory and thinking skills, and, eventually, the ability to conduct the simplest tasks. It is the most common cause of dementia among the senior population. African Americans are twice as likely, and Hispanics are one and a half times as likely as older whites to have Alzheimer's disease and other dementias. Prevalence is higher among women compared to men; two-thirds of Americans with Alzheimer's disease are women. There is no known cure, however, innovative research may provide hope for effective and novel treatment for this incapacitating disease.

- Strengthen the capacity to address Alzheimer's disease and related dementias.
- Ensure a competent Alzheimer's disease and related dementias workforce.
- Enhance support for those living with Alzheimer's disease and related dementias and their caregivers.

2. Chronic Diseases and Conditions

Heart disease, stroke, type 2 diabetes, cancer, and illnesses related to tobacco use are among the most common health problems affecting people of all ages, socioeconomic statuses, and ethnicities. Risk factors—lack of physical activity, poor nutrition, tobacco use, excessive alcohol use, the environment, and social and economic factors—cause much of the illness, suffering and early death related to chronic diseases and conditions.

- Reduce new cases of cancer and cancer-related illness, disability, and death.
- Improve cardiovascular health by reducing new cases, disability and death from heart disease, stroke, and other related illnesses.
- Increase palliative care access and use.
- Reduce the burden of diabetes and improve quality of life for all who have or are at risk for diabetes.
- Improve respiratory health.
- Promote the attainment and maintenance of health through nutrition, physical activity, and supportive lifestyle behaviors.
- Increase access to, and utilization of, oral health care to reduce the burden and disparities of oral diseases and its impact on overall health among all Floridians.

3. Injury, Safety and Violence

Unintentional injuries such as falls and motor vehicle crashes, and intentional injuries such as intimate partner violence are a major cause of death for people ages 1 to 44; however, most events are predictable and preventable.

- Prevent or reduce childhood injuries.
- Prevent or reduce adult injuries.
- Prevent or reduce injuries in vulnerable populations.

- Increase mitigation of Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs) as a statewide prevention strategy.

4. Maternal and Child Health

The well-being of women, infants, children, and families determines the health of the next generation. Events over the life course influence maternal and child health risks and outcomes. Differences in health outcomes such as infant mortality, by race and ethnicity, can predict future public health challenges for families, communities, and the health care system.

- Increase access to quality primary, preventative and sub-specialty care for infants, children, and adolescents.
- Reduce infant morbidity and mortality.
- Reduce maternal morbidity and mortality.
- Improve preconception and interconception health.

5. Mental Well-being and Substance Abuse Prevention

Mental and emotional well-being enables individuals to realize their own abilities, cope with the normal stresses of life, work productively and contribute to his or her community.

- Reduce the impact of adult mental, emotional, and behavioral health disorders.
- Reduce the impact of pediatric mental, emotional, and behavioral health disorders.
- Reduce substance use disorders and drug overdose deaths.
- Reduce suicide behaviors and death.

6. Social and Economic Conditions Impacting Health

Social and economic conditions impacting health are the conditions in the environments where people live, work, and play that influence health throughout the lifespan. These factors, including but not limited to income, employment, social support, literacy skills and transportation have a major impact on people's ability to lead long, healthy lives.

- Expand access to high-quality educational opportunities for all across the lifespan.
- Improve access to high-quality health care services for all across the lifespan.
- Support communities to promote healthy, interconnected, and safe environments.
- Enhance opportunities to foster economic vitality and resilience for all people.

7. Transmissible and Emerging Diseases

Infectious organisms that are primarily acquired and transmitted through sexual activity cause many harmful, often irreversible, and costly clinical complications in reproductive, fetal, and perinatal health. Other emerging infectious agents pose the threat of disease outbreaks. Prevention, treatment, and diagnostic strategies are essential.

- Eliminate HIV transmission and reduce HIV-related deaths.
- Reduce sexually transmitted infection rates.
- Reduce vaccine preventable diseases across the life span and for all people.
- Improve population health by preventing, detecting, and responding to existing and emerging health threats.

III. Community Health Improvement Partnerships and Plans (CHIPs)

The guiding priorities identified in Florida’s SHIP offers guidance to Florida’s counties and communities. Each of Florida’s counties has a well-established Community Health Improvement Partnership (CHIP) to assess its needs, identify its priorities, and develop and implement a Community Health Improvement Plan (CHIP) to address its own priority health issues. While the details regarding the priorities and plans of each CHIP are focused on their own counties, this section summarizes priorities shared by Florida’s SHIP and the CHIPs of the counties in the Big Bend area. These shared priorities present opportunities to consider and develop goals, objectives, and strategies for multi-county or regional solutions.

The table on the following page summarizes the alignment between priorities identified by the CHIPs of Big Bend’s counties with those identified in Florida’s SHIP.

Notice that every county identified one or more priorities aligned with Florida’s SHIP and one or more other counties’ CHIPs. As you can see, the three most frequently identified priorities in the Big Bend area align with Florida’s priorities are highlighted for emphasis:

SHIP Priority 1, Alzheimer’s Disease and Related Dementias

No counties identified this as a priority.

SHIP Priority 2, Chronic Diseases and Conditions

All counties identified this as a priority.

SHIP Priority 3, Injury, Safety, and Violence

Leon

SHIP Priority 4, Maternal and Child Health

Jefferson, Leon, Madison

Priority 5, Mental Well-Being, and Substance Abuse Prevention

Bay, Franklin, Gadsden, Gulf, Holmes, Jackson, Jefferson, Leon, Liberty, Madison, Taylor, Wakulla, Washington

Priority 6, Social and Economic Conditions Impacting Health

Bay, Calhoun, Franklin, Gadsden, Gulf, Holmes, Jackson, Leon, Liberty, Taylor, Wakulla

Priority 7, Transmissible and Emerging Diseases

No counties identified this as a priority.

Additional details regarding SHIP and CHIP priorities are summarized in the table below and on the following pages. More detailed information regarding each county’s most recent CHIP is posted online at [Community Health Improvement Planning | Florida Department of Health \(floridahealth.gov\)](https://www.floridahealth.gov/community-health-improvement-planning/)

Because issues related to “access to care” are inextricably linked to “chronic diseases and conditions” and “social and economic conditions impacting health”, all CHIP priorities that identified any aspect of “access to care” was checked (✓) in “chronic diseases and conditions” as well as “social and economic conditions impacting health”.

**Florida State Health Improvement (SHIP) Priorities and
the Priorities of Big Bend’s Community Health Improvement Partnerships (CHIPs)**

Florida State Health Improvement Plan 2022-2026 Home - Florida SHIP - State Health Improvement Plan						
Priority 1	Priority 2	Priority 3	Priority 4	Priority 5	Priority 6	Priority 7
Alzheimer’s Disease and Related Dementias	Chronic Diseases and Conditions	Injury, Safety and Violence	Maternal and Child Health	Mental Well-being and Substance Abuse Prevention	Social and Economic Conditions Impacting Health	Transmissible and Emerging Diseases
Bay County Community Health Improvement Plan 2022 Bay CHIP8.pdf (floridahealth.gov)						
---	Access to Care	---	---	Mental Health, Intentional Self-Harm including Substance Abuse	Affordable Housing, Transportation, Access to Care	---
Calhoun County Community Health Improvement Plan 2022-2025 Calhoun CHIP2.pdf (floridahealth.gov)						
---	Obesity	---	---	---	Health equity, Health Disparities	---
Franklin and Gulf Counties 2023 Community Health Improvement Plan, 2024 Franklin CHIP 2024.pdf (floridahealth.gov)						
---	Awareness and Access to Existing Services	---	---	Crisis Care and Behavioral Health Services	Better Support and Access to Basic Services; Awareness of and Access to Existing Services	---

Florida State Health Improvement Plan 2022-2026
[Home - Florida SHIP - State Health Improvement Plan](#)

Priority 1	Priority 2	Priority 3	Priority 4	Priority 5	Priority 6	Priority 7
Alzheimer’s Disease and Related Dementias	Chronic Diseases and Conditions	Injury, Safety and Violence	Maternal and Child Health	Mental Well-being and Substance Abuse Prevention	Social and Economic Conditions Impacting Health	Transmissible and Emerging Diseases

Gadsden County Community Health Improvement Plan January 2021 – December 2025
[Gadsden CHIP1.pdf \(floridahealth.gov\)](#)

---	Healthcare Services	--	---	Healthcare services including mental health services	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Healthcare services including mental health services, a fully operational hospital, and primary care physicians. 2. Employment opportunities to address the poverty rate. 3. Accessible stores for groceries and living needs. 4. Employment opportunities for former prisoners. 5. Local homeless shelter and/or transitional housing. 6. Advertising health services to community and other health providers. 7. Recreational facilities for adults and families. 8. Transportation services 	---
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Florida State Health Improvement Plan 2022-2026 Home - Florida SHIP - State Health Improvement Plan						
Priority 1	Priority 2	Priority 3	Priority 4	Priority 5	Priority 6	Priority 7
Alzheimer’s Disease and Related Dementias	Chronic Diseases and Conditions	Injury, Safety and Violence	Maternal and Child Health	Mental Well-being and Substance Abuse Prevention	Social and Economic Conditions Impacting Health	Transmissible and Emerging Diseases
Gulf County (see Franklin County)						
Holmes County Community Health Improvement Plan 2024-2029 Holmes County Florida Department of Health (floridahealth.gov)						
---	Heart Disease, Overweight, Obesity, and Diabetes; Smoking and Vaping	---	---	Mental Health	---	---
Jackson County Community Health Improvement Plan December 2019-December 2024 Jackson CHIP2.pdf (floridahealth.gov)						
---	Chronic Disease Related to Lifestyle and Behavior	---	---	Social and Behavioral Health	Healthcare Access	---
Jefferson County Community Health Improvement Plan 2023-2027 Jefferson CHIP 2023-2027.pdf (floridahealth.gov)						
---	Chronic Disease	---	Maternal and Child Health	Social and Behavioral Health	---	---
Leon County Community Health Improvement Plan January 2023-December 2027 Leon CHIP 2023-2027.pdf (floridahealth.gov)						
---	Chronic Conditions	Injury, Safety, and Violence	Maternal and Child Health	Mental Well-Being and Substance Abuse	Social and Economic Conditions Impacting Health	---
Liberty County Health Improvement Plan 2022-2025 Liberty CHIP2.pdf (floridahealth.gov)						
---	Obesity	---	---	---	Health Equity/Health Disparities	---

Florida State Health Improvement Plan 2022-2026 Home - Florida SHIP - State Health Improvement Plan						
Alzheimer’s Disease and Related Dementias	Chronic Diseases and Conditions	Injury, Safety and Violence	Maternal and Child Health	Mental Well-being and Substance Abuse Prevention	Social and Economic Conditions Impacting Health	Transmissible and Emerging Diseases
Madison County Health Improvement Plan 2023-2027 Madison CHIP3.pdf (floridahealth.gov)						
---	Chronic Disease	---	Maternal and Child Health	Social and Mental Health	---	---
Taylor County Health Improvement Plan April 2023-December 2026 Taylor CHIP1.pdf (floridahealth.gov)						
---	Free or affordable health screenings	---	---	Mental Health Services, Substance Abuse/ Rehabilitation Services	Access to Care (“Expand Healthcare Providers/Services in Taylor County”)	---
Wakulla County Community Health Improvement Plan 2023-2026 Wakulla CHIP 2023-2026.pdf (floridahealth.gov)						
---	Access to HealthCare Services	---	---	Mental Health Services, Substance Abuse (including Tobacco and Vaping)	Access to Healthcare Services, Age Friendly Services	---
Washington County Community Health Improvement Plan 2024-2029 Washington CHIP 2024-2029.pdf (floridahealth.gov)						
---	Heart Disease; Overweight and Obesity; Diabetes	---	---	Mental Health	---	---

Source: See the original reports for additional details regarding how these priority issues affect specific communities at [Community Health Improvement Planning | Florida Department of Health \(floridahealth.gov\)](#)

The following table provides a concise summary of shared priorities.

**Summary of Health Priorities Identified in Florida’s SHIP and Big Bend Counties’ CHIPs
July 2024**

Counties	Florida						
	Priority 1	Priority 2	Priority 3	Priority 4	Priority 5	Priority 6	Priority 7
	Alzheimer’s Disease and Related Dementias	Chronic Diseases and Conditions	Injury, Safety and Violence	Maternal and Child Health	Mental Well-being and Substance Abuse Prevention	Social and Economic Conditions Impacting Health	Transmissible and Emerging Diseases
Bay		✓			✓	✓	
Calhoun		✓				✓	
Franklin		✓			✓	✓	
Gadsden		✓			✓	✓	
Gulf		✓			✓	✓	
Holmes		✓			✓	✓	
Jackson		✓			✓	✓	
Jefferson		✓		✓	✓		
Leon		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
Liberty		✓				✓	
Madison		✓		✓	✓		
Taylor		✓			✓	✓	
Wakulla		✓			✓	✓	
Washington		✓			✓		

Note: Because issues related to “access to care” are inextricably linked to “chronic diseases and conditions” and “social and economic conditions impacting health”, all CHIP priorities that identified any aspect of “access to care” was checked (✓) in “chronic diseases and conditions” as well as “social and economic conditions impacting health”.

Note: For additional details regarding these priorities, see the State Health Improvement Plan (SHIP) and the County Health Improvement Plans (CHIPs) at:

<https://www.floridahealth.gov/about/state-and-community-health-assessment/index.html>

[Home - Florida SHIP - State Health Improvement Plan](#)

[Community Health Improvement Planning | Florida Department of Health \(floridahealth.gov\)](#)

Source: Florida Department of Health, State and Community Health Reports, July 19, 2024.

Questions? Errors or Omissions? Suggestions? Please Contact Big Bend Health Council, Barbara Feeney, Program Manager, 561-891-6395, Barbara_Feeney@hotmail.com