

Reproductive Health Trends for Florence County

Florence County Health Department | 2022 Report

(PHAB Reaccred. 1.3.1)

Introduction

Reproductive health refers to the health status of reproductive processes, functions, and systems. Reproductive health includes the diseases, disorders, and conditions that affect the functioning of the male and female reproductive systems during reproductive age. (WI DHS, 2022) Many factors play a role in reproductive health such as, age, genetics, medical history/overall health, income/education level, health behaviors, access to medical care, and environmental exposures.

Demonstrating community engagement, Florence County Health Department (FCHD) facilitated a virtual Focus Group on Reproductive Health in 2021. This particular discussion targeted a population of reproductive age in aspiration to identify barriers and findings for data analysis. FCHD chose to conduct this type of engagement because our jurisdiction is a small rural border county with inadequate amounts of data to provide statistical significance regarding areas of reproductive health. For example related to data on teen births, the County Health Rankings 2021, unfortunately shows inadequate findings due to small numbers in Florence County. Teen Births is the number of births to females ages 15-19 per 1,000 females in a county. Rates measure the number of events (e.g., deaths, births, etc.) in a given time period (generally one or more years) divided by the average number of people at risk during that period. Rates help us compare health data across counties with different population sizes. (County Health Rankings, 2021) Florence County does not have 1,000 females aged 15-19 so this data set can not be utilized.

The results of the focus group provided feedback to assess risk factors and socio-economic conditions that affect health. The group consisted of primarily college students in a virtual meeting. The finds were reviewed by descriptive analysis to show that most had their parent insurance but not aware of some risks to affect their reproductive health. In addition, most reported receiving their health information from friends not social media. They trusted information on their health from word of mouth and did not utilized print media. Some reported additional health concerns (obesity, diabetes) to consider in addition to their reproductive health.

Another example is access to medical care, Wisconsin is 7% uninsured while 8% of Florence County is uninsured. The ratios for Primary Care Physicians in Wisconsin is 1,270:1, while the county is 1.440:1. Primary Care Physicians data set used by CHR is the ratio of the population to primary care physicians. The ratio represents the number of individuals served by one physician in a county, if the population was equally distributed across physicians. For example, if a county has a population of 50,000 and has 20 primary care physicians, their ratio would be: 2,500:1. The value on the right side of the ratio is always 1 or 0; 1 indicates that there is at least one Primary Care Physician in the county, and zero indicates there are no registered Primary Care Physicians in the county.

Access to care requires not only financial coverage, but also access to providers. While high rates of specialist physicians have been shown to be associated with higher (and perhaps unnecessary) utilization, sufficient availability of primary care physicians is essential for preventive and primary care, and, when needed, referrals to appropriate specialty care. (County Health Rankings, 2021).

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References:

Centers for Disease and Prevention (2022). Women's Reproductive Health.

Retrieved from <https://www.cdc.gov/reproductivehealth/womensrh/index.htm>

County Health Rankings & Roadmaps (2021). Retrieved from <http://www.countyhealthrankings.org/>

Analysis

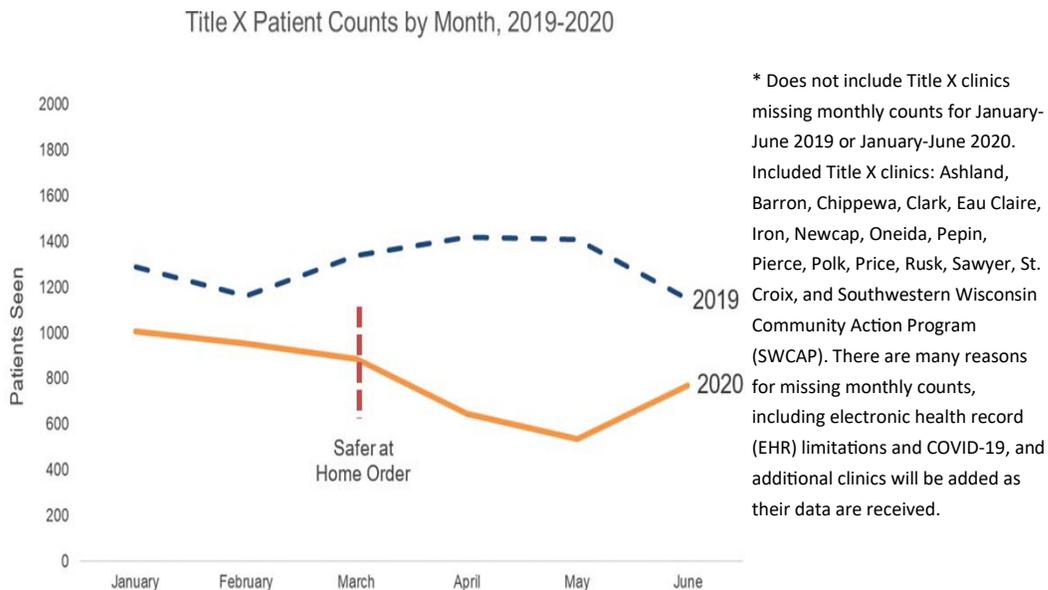
The chart below, which utilizes descriptive analysis, indicates that Florence County is consistent with state trends related to a decrease in reproductive health programming utilized. NACCHO Exchange, Winter 2022 identified that, “it is important to focus initiatives so that resources can be targeted. This can be difficult for LHDs because health is impacted by a wide range of factors: some are within the scope of public health departments (e.g. operating a vaccine clinic), but many are not (e.g. transportation barriers to getting a vaccine). While the breadth of issues is important to explore, data examined in the context of the community and the current positioning of local decision-makers will help to target change efforts on the most impactful causes” (Casalotti, Giachello, 2022). FCHD is in a position to implement targeted programming to influence health outcomes in our unique jurisdiction.

Reference:

Casalotti, A. and Giachello, O. (2022) The Road from Local Numbers and Narratives to Public Health Change, NACCHO Exchange.

Data in Action

How has the pandemic impacted the number of patients seen?



Data Highlights:

Title X clinics have seen **almost 40% fewer** patients in 2020 compared to 2019.

The **biggest decrease** in patients seen (-27%) occurred between March and April 2020, which is also when the Safer at Home Order was implemented.

However, between May and June 2020 there was a **large increase** in patients seen (+44%). We know clinic staff are working hard to make this happen and hope this trend continues into Q3 and Q4.

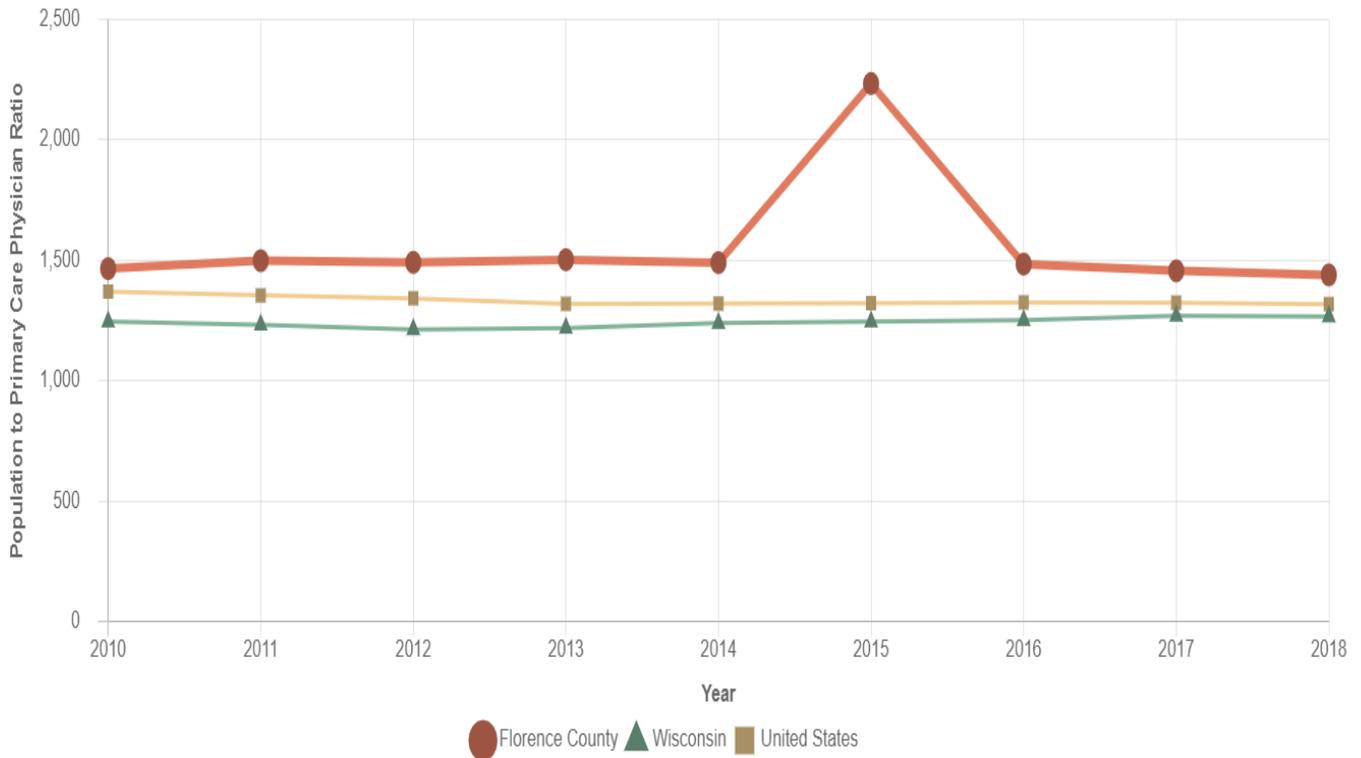
Data was provided by the former RHFP epidemiologist Emily Morian-Lozano through the WI DHS.

Conclusions

The chart below identifies the lack of access for Florence County to primary care physicians in our jurisdiction. Prioritizing equity in rural health departments with primary care shortages means providing services to address the healthcare needed in local agencies. The 2021 Community Health Rankings identified additional health risks for individuals in Florence County to experience disparities such as poverty (17%) and unemployment (4.8%) which are higher than Wisconsin (14% and 3.3%, respectively) state average. In addition, Florence County has a higher average of uninsured individuals (8%) compared to the state of Wisconsin (7%). These factors highlight the need for local implications to continue the reproductive health program. Although the FCHD program numbers have been low, they continue to grow. In addition, with new requests for services, FCHD has broadened its services to meet the needs of the community.

Primary care physicians in Florence County, WI
County, State and National Trends

No significant trend was found in Florence County for this measure.



Notes:
The data in this table reflect the average population served by a single primary care physician.

Source: County Health Rankings 2021. *It is noted that annual data may have limited interpretative value due to the small numbers.

Florence County Health Department Tree Diagram

Updated April 2022

