

**Community Themes and Strengths  
Assessment Report  
Sumter County  
August, 2012**



A Community Health Assessment was conducted to gather information from community members on current health status, health problems and relevant health issues of Sumter County. The planning, methodology and populations included are described in this report. The survey instrument and associated documents are included in the Appendix.

### **Methodology:**

The methods used to conduct this assessment included planning, data collection, data analysis, and results compilation. Sumter County Health Department (SCHD) staff members along with the MAPP (Mobilizing for Action through Planning and Partnerships) Steering Committee developed the survey instrument (Appendix A) and established the data collection process. A telephone-based survey using a simple stratified sample design was the method for data collection. Sumter County was divided into two strata. Strata 1 was defined as residents with a zip code associated with The Villages and Strata 2 as residents of Sumter County with a zip code outside The Villages. A key objective for this study was that the survey data support separate descriptions for The Villages and the rest of Sumter County.

Sumter County Medical Reserve Corps volunteers along with SCHD staff members conducted the telephone interviews. Survey responses were then keyed into the *Survey Monkey* online survey tool. A total of 2734 random phone numbers were generated, including 1835 land-lines and 899 cell-phone numbers. At the conclusion of the data collection period, 271 responses (126 from The Villages and 145 from the rest of the county) were received. This is approximately a 10% response rate.

### **Data Analysis:**

The Sumter County Health Department employed a Master of Public Health (MPH) student intern from Tulane University to conduct the data analysis. The margin of error tolerance with a 90% confidence level is indicated below.

	<u>Responses</u>	<u>Margin of Error Tolerance</u>
All of Sumter County:	271	5%
The Villages:	126	7.32%
Areas outside The Villages:	145	6.82%

A weighted analysis (Appendix B) was computed for the survey respondents using two factors--- design and post-stratification. The product of these two factors for a given survey respondent is the final sampling weight for that case.

## Survey Summary

- **Demographics of respondents:**

Table 1.

Place of Residence	The Villages	Bushnell	Center Hill	Coleman	Lake Panasoffkee	Oxford	Sumterville	Webster	Wildwood
# of respondents	126	34	5	5	30	12	6	19	34
Household size	1	2	3	4	5	≥ 6			
	64	155	32	8	7	4			
Age	≤ 25	26-39	40-54	55-64	≥ 65				
	4	17	31	66	151				
Race	Caucasian	African American	Other						
	244	17	9						
Education	College Degree	High School Diploma	No High School Diploma						
	122	126	19						
Gender	Male	Female							
	109	159							

- **Health Status and Related Issues:**

*1. Satisfaction with the health care system*

Table 2.

	Sumter County	The Villages	Outside The Villages
YES	74.2%	77.9%	68.8%
NO	25.8%	22.1%	31.2%

As shown in Table 2, 77.9% of the population of The Villages and 68.8% of the population outside The Villages feels satisfied with the health care system; an approximate 10% difference between the two strata.

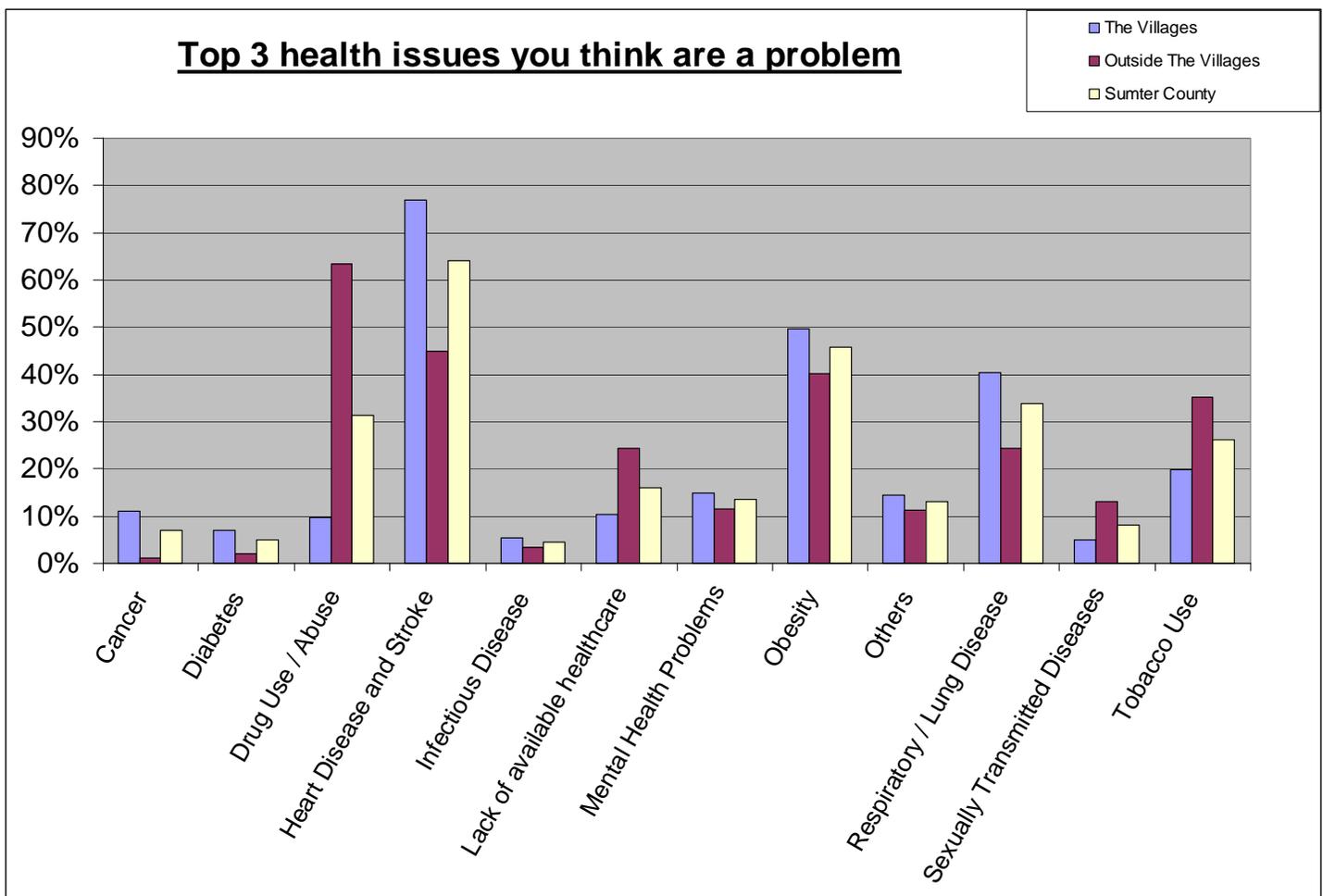


Figure 1

The top three health issues identified as a problem in The Villages were *Heart Disease and Stroke*, *Obesity*, and *Respiratory/Lung Disease*. Outside The Villages the top three identified were *Drug Use/Abuse*, *Heart Disease and Stroke*, and *Obesity*. Countywide, the top three health issues residents felt were most important were *Heart Disease and Stroke*, *Obesity*, and *Respiratory/Lung Disease*. It's noteworthy that *Heart Disease and Stroke* are considered

extremely important within The Villages, while *Drug Use/Abuse* was identified as the top health issue outside The Villages.

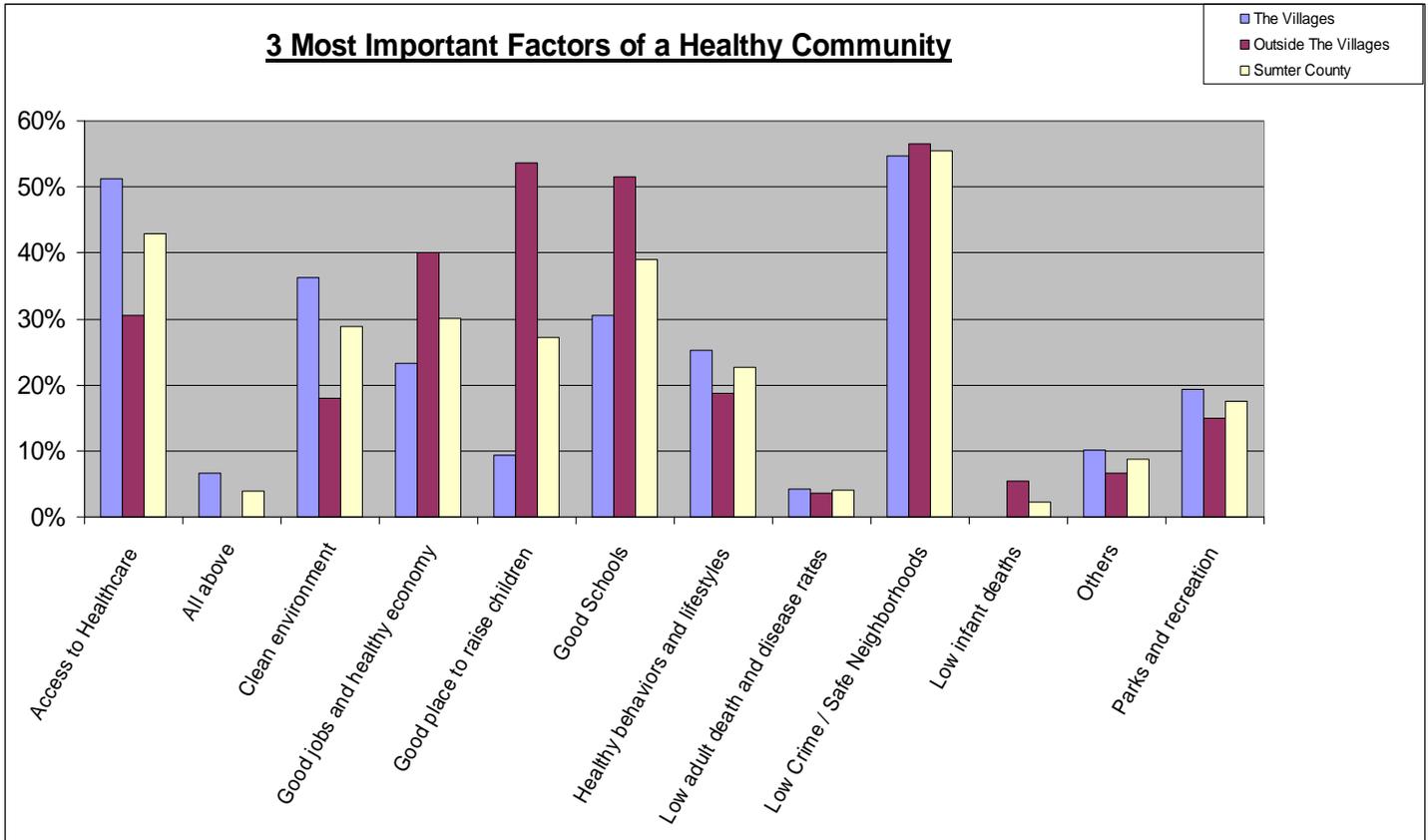


Figure 2

Countywide, *Low Crime/Safe Neighborhoods* was considered the most important factor of a healthy community. More than half of the residents of The Villages identified *Access to Healthcare* as an important factor. Over 50% of residents of other areas of Sumter County, identified a *Good place to raise children* and *Good Schools* as important components of a healthy community.

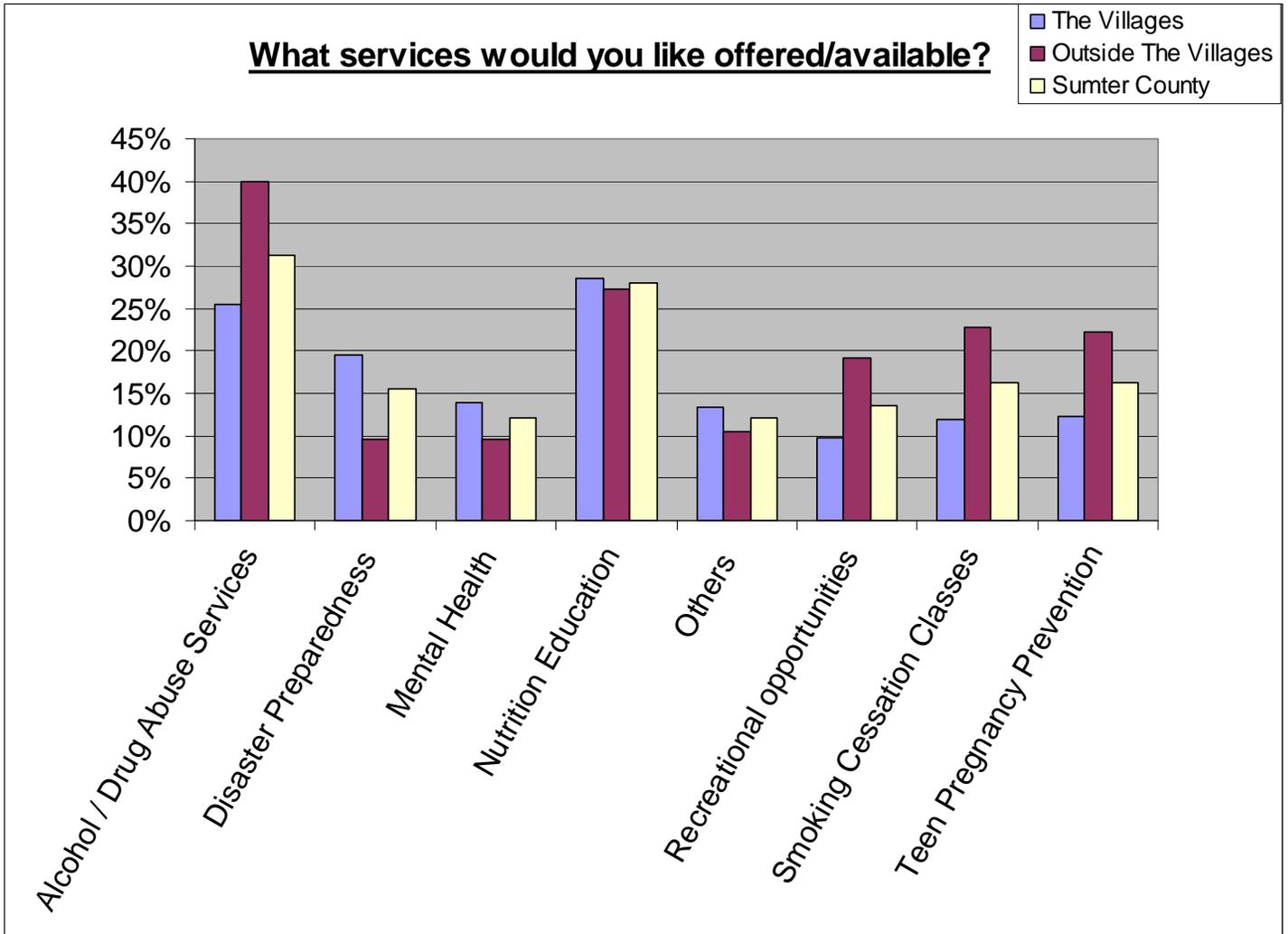


Figure 3

*Alcohol/Drug Abuse Services* and *Nutrition Education* were considered needed services countywide. It is noteworthy that *Recreational Opportunities*, *Smoking Cessation Classes*, and *Teen Pregnancy Prevention* were more in demand outside The Villages.

- **Safety and Recreation:**

1. *Feeling safe walking down the street in your neighborhood*

Table 3.

	Sumter County	The Villages	Outside The Villages
YES	92.3%	98.5%	83.1%
NO	7.7%	1.5%	16.9%

**2. Having enough public recreational facilities**

Table 4.

	Sumter County	The Villages	Outside The Villages
YES	70.2%	91.8%	38.4%
NO	29.8%	8.2%	61.6%

The majority of those residents living in The Villages (92.3%) indicated that they felt safe walking down the street in their neighborhood while only 83.1% of residents living elsewhere in Sumter County felt so.

The opinions about adequacy of recreational facilities show a dramatic difference between The Villages residents (91.8% say there are enough) and residents living in other areas of the county (61.6% say there are not enough).

• **Major Causes of Obesity and Tobacco Use:**

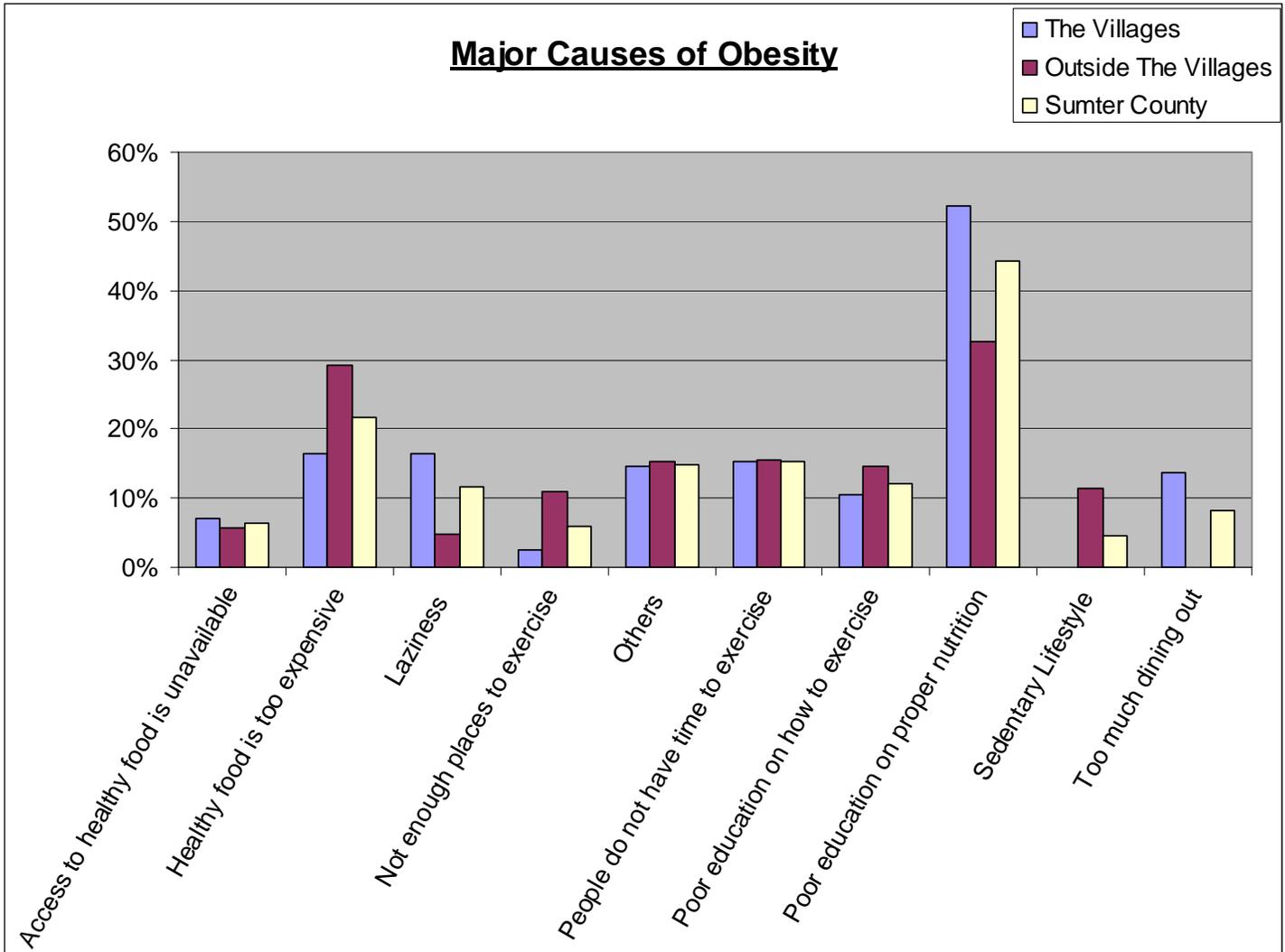


Figure 4

Over 50% of residents of The Villages think that *Poor education on proper nutrition* is a major cause of obesity while other causes are relatively low in comparison. For residents of Sumter County outside The Villages, *Poor education on proper nutrition* is also identified as a major cause of obesity. However, *Healthy food is too expensive* was also identified.

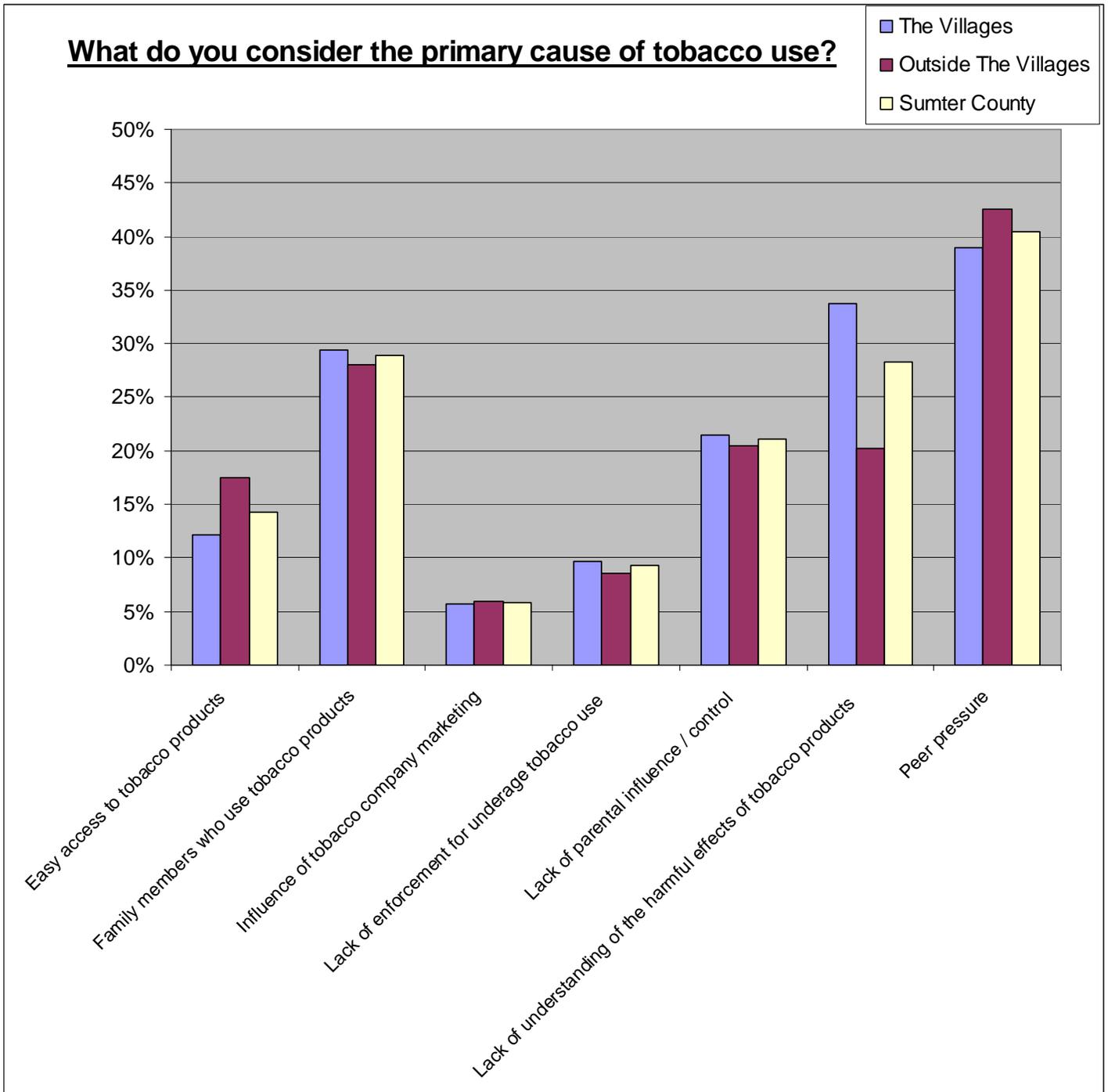


Figure 5

*Peer pressure* and *Family members who use tobacco products* were the most common responses throughout the county. Residents of The Villages felt that a *Lack of understanding of the harmful effects of tobacco products* was also a primary cause.

- **Lifestyle and Emergency Preparedness:**

**1. Dining out in the past 7 days**

Table 5

	Sumter County	The Villages	Outside The Villages
0-2 times	66.2%	61.3%	73.4%
2-5 times	25.7%	30.3%	18.8%
5-10times	6.9%	7.4%	6.3%

The percentage of residents dining out frequently is similar geographically, however the distribution is much higher for residents of The Villages in the 2-5 times a week range.

**2. Last time for dental care**

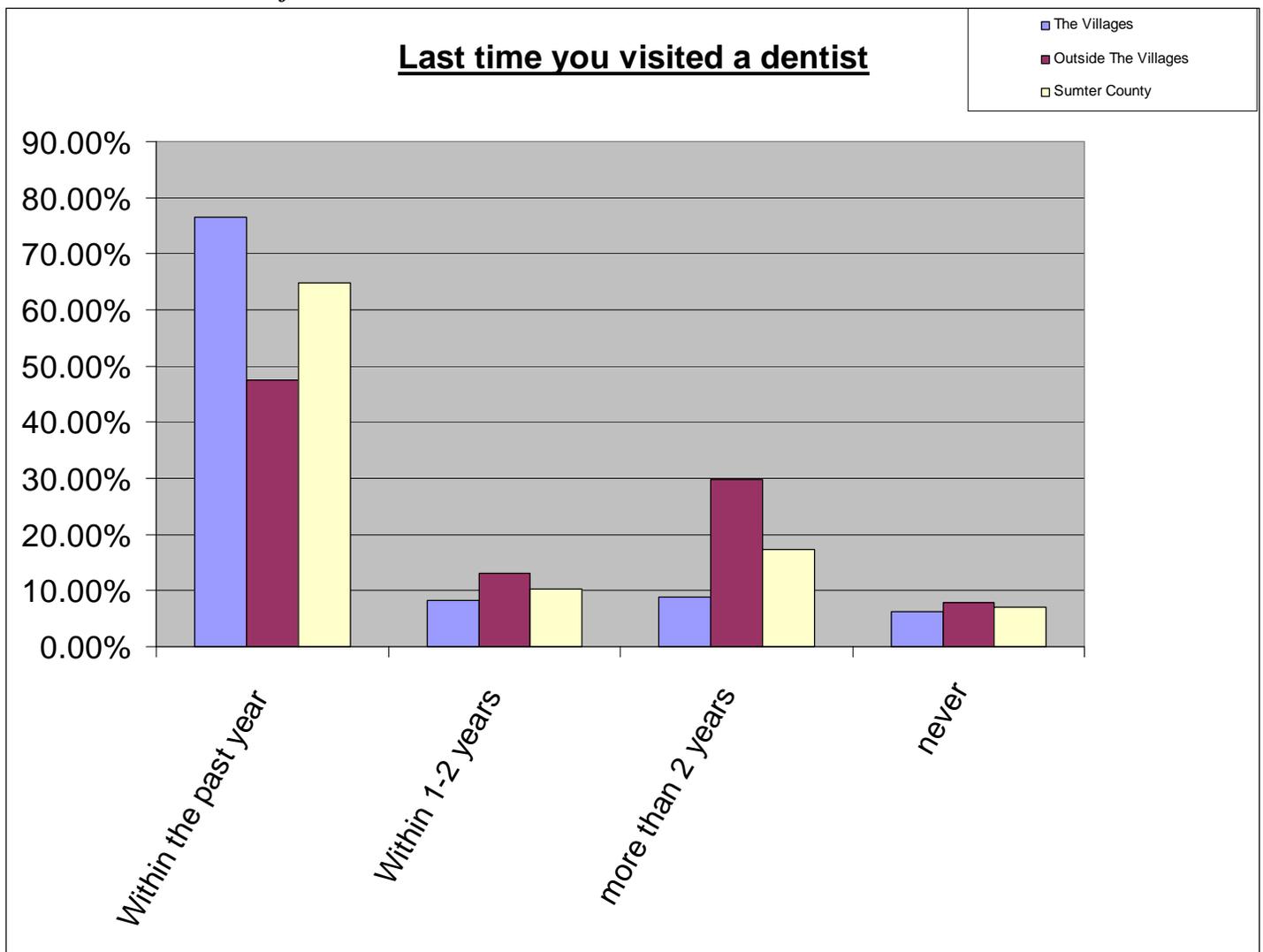


Figure 6

Almost 80% of the population of The Villages indicated they received dental care within the past year, while less than 50% residing elsewhere in Sumter County indicated the same.

**3. Preparedness for a Natural Disaster**

Table 6

	Sumter County	The Villages	Outside The Villages
YES	85.7%	87.1%	83.6%
NO	14.3%	12.9%	16.4%

The majority of residents felt confident in their ability to take care of their family in the event of a natural disaster. There was not a significant difference between the two strata.

- **Health Care and Health Information Access:**

**1.1. Pharmacy Access**

Table 7

	Sumter County	The Villages	Outside The Villages
YES	96.0%	100%	90.1%
NO	4.0%	0%	9.9%

**1.2. Financial Capability to obtain all required medications**

Table 8

	Sumter County	The Villages	Outside The Villages
YES	86.7%	95.7%	73.4%
NO	13.3%	4.3%	26.6%

Almost all the residents in Sumter County (100% population from The Villages and 90% elsewhere) agree that they have pharmacy access to obtain all required medications. But opinions become diverse when asking about their financial capability to obtain the required medications. More than 95% of The Villages residents respond “Yes” and only 73% of residents in the rest of the county agreed.

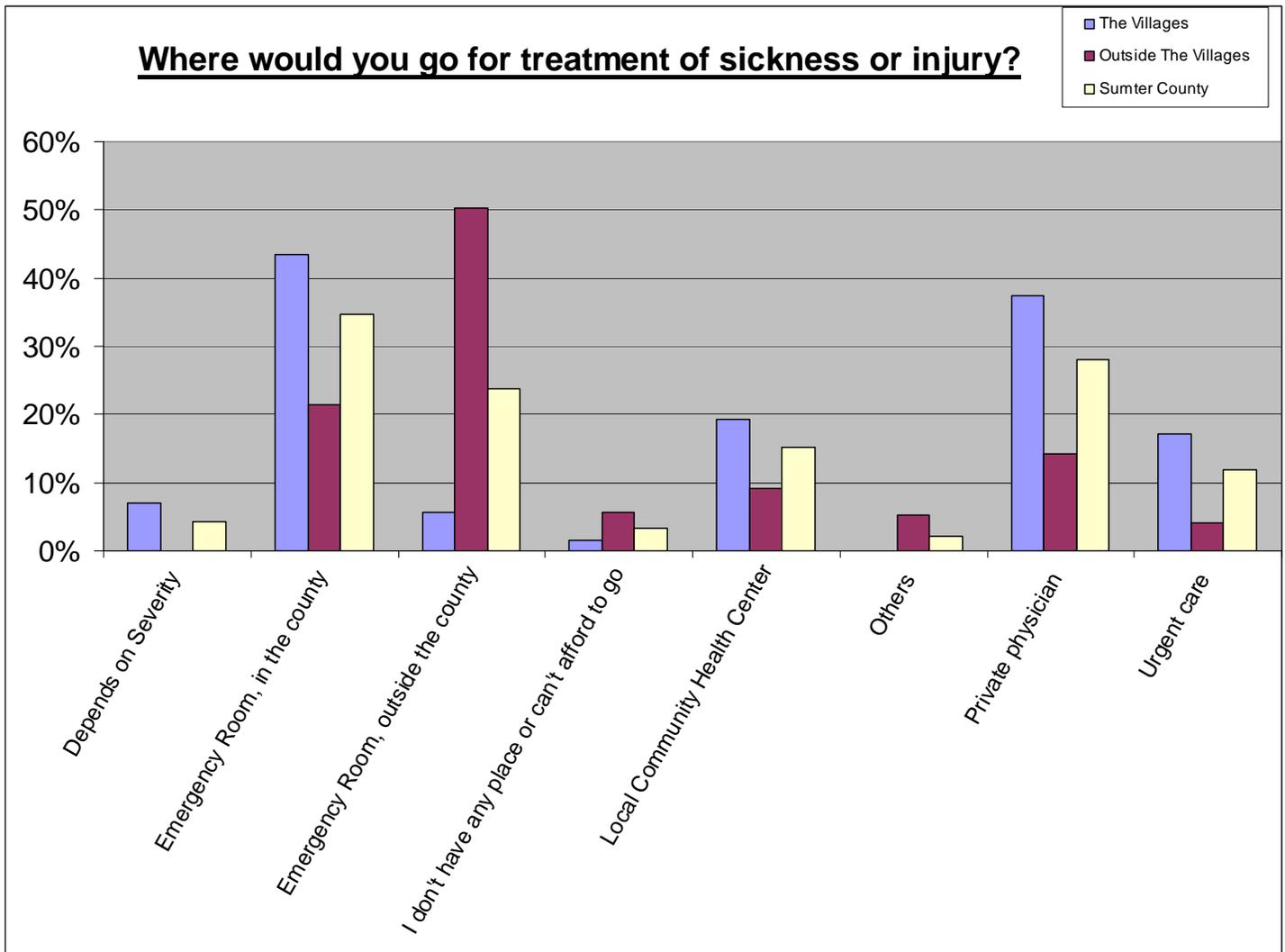


Figure 7

The locations for routine medical care for The Villages and elsewhere are very different. Approximately 80% of The Villages residents would go to either an emergency room (in the county) or a private physician for their routine medical care. On the other hand, more than 50% of residents outside The Villages go to an emergency room (outside the county) for routine medical care.

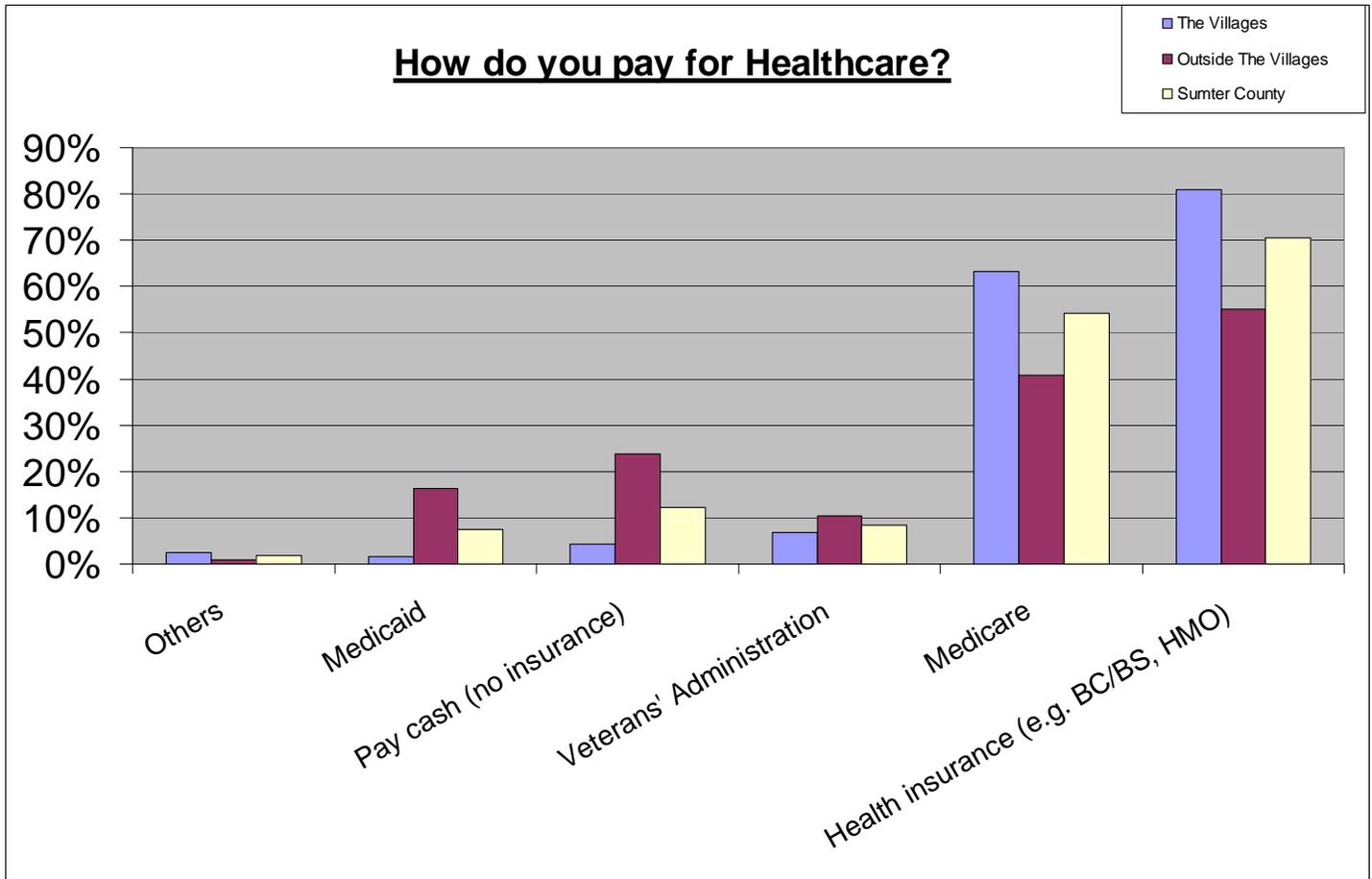


Figure 8

Health insurance and Medicare were the most common methods to pay for healthcare throughout Sumter County. Approximately 95% of The Villages residents are covered by some type of health insurance; while only 75% of the population living elsewhere in Sumter County has some type of health insurance coverage (Pay cash/no insurance).

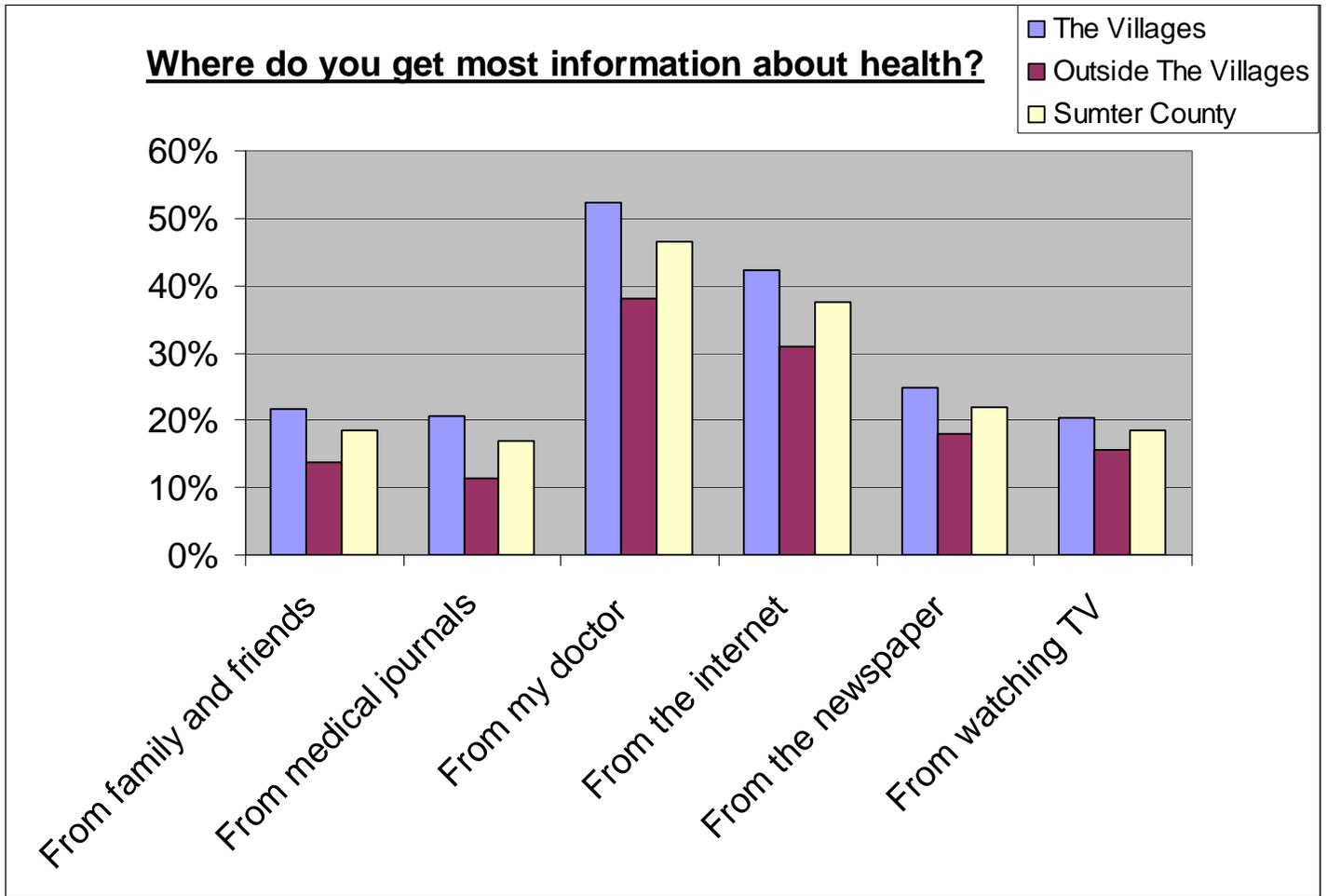


Figure 9

Health information access varies for both The Villages and the rest of Sumter County; but “Doctor” and “Internet” are identified as the major sources of health information for both strata.

## **Comments:**

Sumter County consists of two major populations. Approximately 60% of the population is retired adults who live in The Villages. The other 40% of the population resides outside The Villages. These two populations have very different characteristics. Residents of The Villages are a group of affluent retirees of similar age (over 55 years). This group is generally more educated and has very similar demographic characteristics including a shared lifestyle. On the other hand, the population in the rest of Sumter County has a more varied structure in terms of age, household income, education level and other demographic characteristics. Generally speaking, education levels and average incomes are lower for this rural populace.

Because of the contrasting nature of these two populations, they face different kinds of health issues. When developing targeted strategies, it is necessary to analyze the data from this Community Health Assessment separately for each population in order to recognize the health status and real problems these two populations are facing. In this way, it will be possible to impact health factors and affect positive health outcomes for all residents of Sumter County.

### **Appendix A**



Adobe Acrobat  
Document

### **Appendix B**



Adobe Acrobat  
Document