

Reading the Data

In reviewing each indicator, pay close attention to:

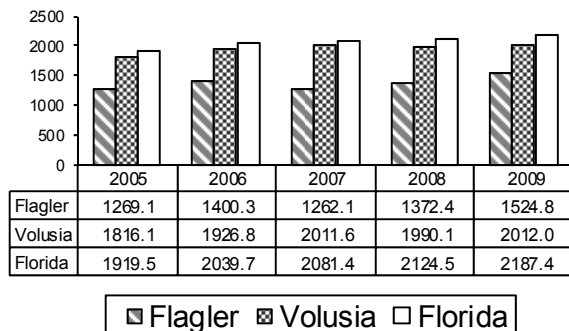
The Rate or Percentage: Where applicable, each indicator is reported as a rate per specific number of the population (i.e. 1,000 per population, 10,000 per population). A few of the **Health and Wellness** indicators (i.e. Infant Mortality) were reported as a three-year rolling rate. The three-year rolling rate is an average value of an indicator over three rolling 3-year time periods and were used to flatten out large fluctuations. Detailed notes specific to each indicator are included with appropriate clarifications.

Crude Rate or Age-Adjusted Rate: A **crude rate** is calculated by dividing the total number of events in a specified time period by the total number of individuals in the potentially affected population and multiplying by a constant, such as 1,000 or 100,000. A percentage is a type of crude rate – (numerator/denominator) x 100. Crude rates are helpful when determining the overall burden an issue places on the total population. As a comparative measure however, the crude rate does not account for age distribution of the two populations to be compared. Therefore, when comparing two populations with each population having a majority of persons in a different age group, the more appropriate measure would be the age-adjusted rate. The **age-adjusted rate** eliminates the effect of the underlying age distribution of the population. For example, an age-adjusted death rate is a weighted average of the age-specific death rates.

The Scale: The scale for each indicator is different. It may appear that charts on the same page are visually similar, but notice the range between tick marks on each indicator.

The Trends: Although growing rapidly, Flagler County’s population is relatively small—this makes the Flagler trend line “jump” from year to year for certain indicators. This “jump” may not always be meaningful and should be considered when reviewing the data.

Note Scale



Note Trend Line

