

**Penta** Policy Insiders

# Florida Insights Review Series

Public Health and Healthcare

# Executive summary

We are excited to share our findings from this year's Florida Insights Review. From April to September 2022, we surveyed and spoke with over 250 state and local policymakers in Florida to understand their policy priorities and how the private and public sectors can collaborate to move forward on important issues.

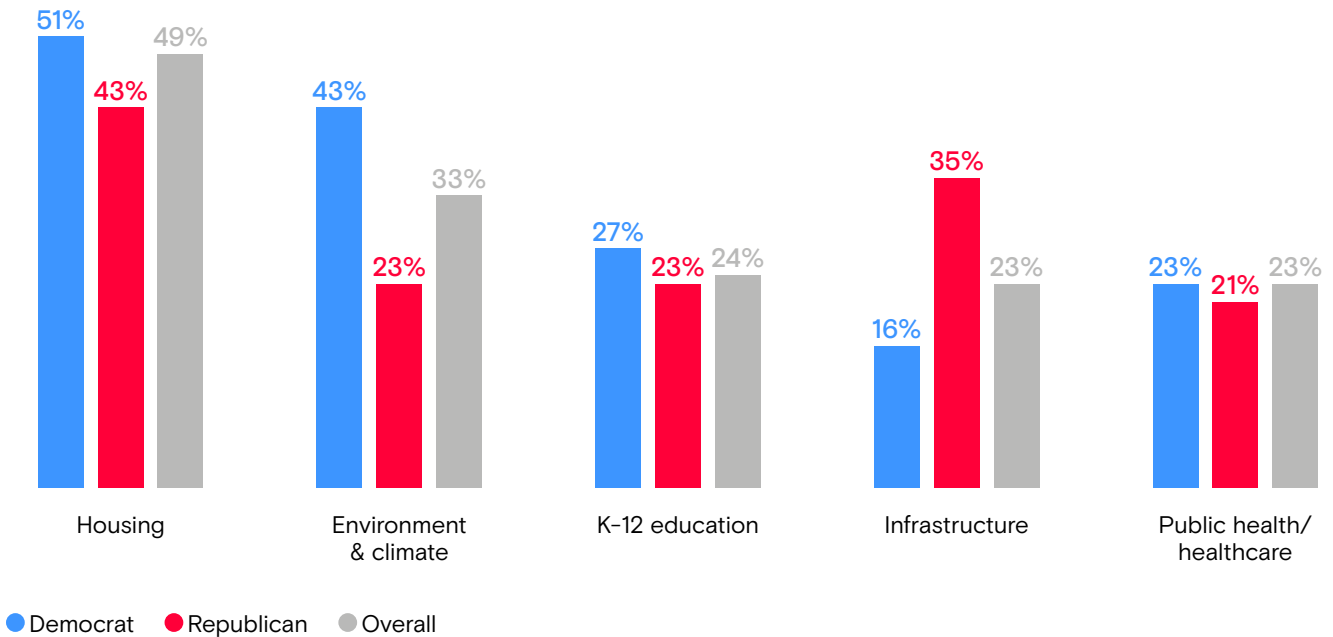
Last year was particularly noteworthy for the state of Florida, which was at the center of national discourse when its business community and political leadership found themselves misaligned over issues relating to corporate engagement on social issues, highlighted by the Parental Rights in Education legislation. Our research in Florida indicates that policymaker perceptions of corporate engagement on social issues vary significantly by party, with Republicans more critical of corporate engagement on these issues.

In fact, 40% of Republican policymakers believe that companies should avoid engaging on social issues, altogether. Those Republican policymakers that welcome private sector engagement tend to suggest that such engagement should be directly related to business functions and avoid overstepping into political issues.

In terms of policy priorities, both Democrats and Republicans report that the state's housing issues are top of mind, while education and healthcare remain in the top five priorities of Florida policymakers.

This report is the sixth in a series that examines Florida policymakers' top policy priorities of 2022. This review examines Public Health and Healthcare in the state.

## Top policy priorities in Florida

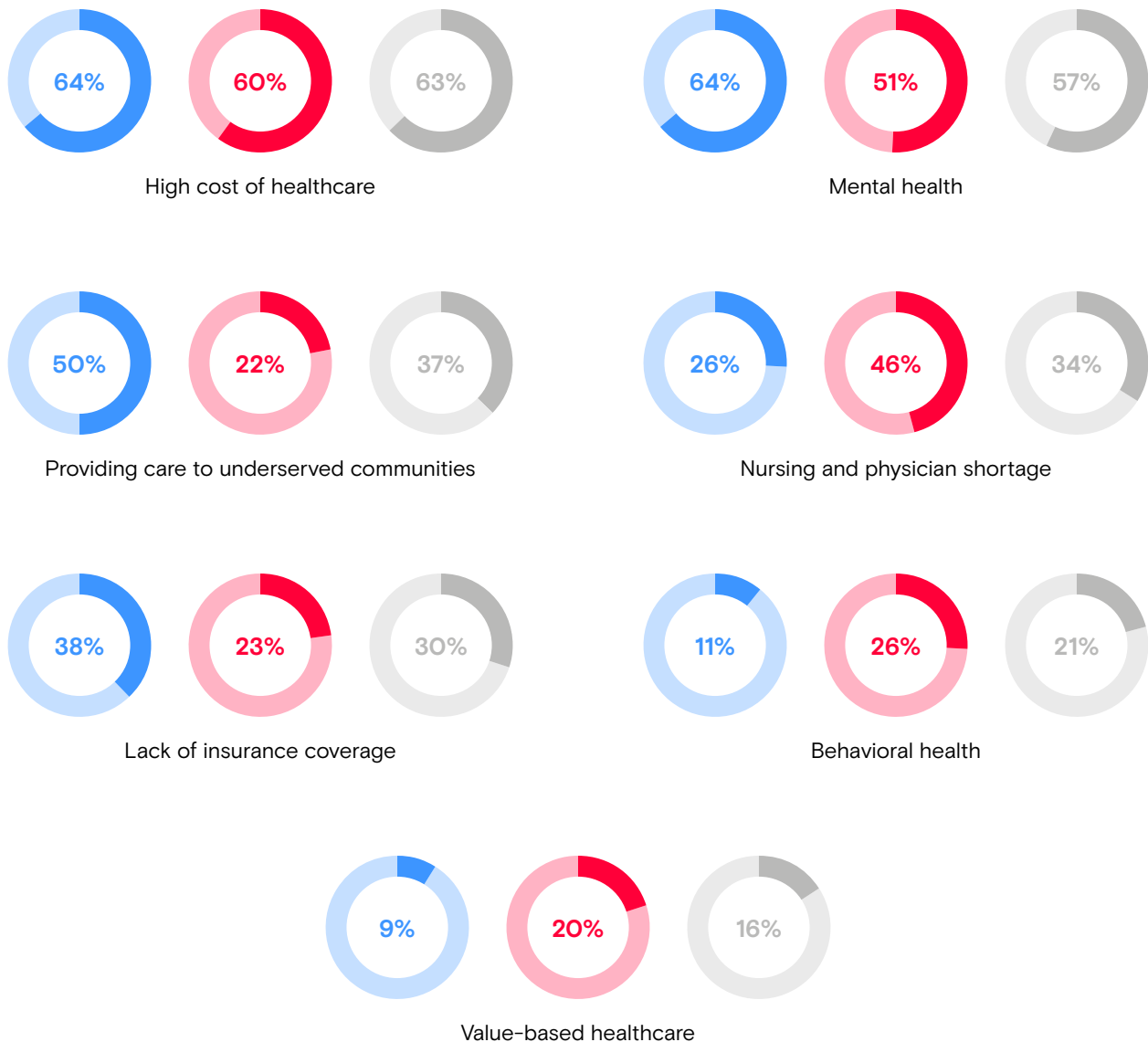


# Public Health and Healthcare

Policymakers in Florida are focused on the high cost of healthcare and addressing mental health challenges. In addition, health equity is a concern among Democrats, while Republicans prioritize the shortage of nurses and physicians. This report focuses on mental health, an issue which has grown in significance in our conversations with policymakers over the past year.

## Top healthcare issues for Florida policymakers

n=253



● Democrat ● Republican ● Overall

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## Addressing mental health

In 2021, 49.7 percent of Floridians in need of mental health services did not receive treatment because of cost. Improving mental healthcare accessibility and affordability is a bipartisan priority, with over half of both Republican and Democrat respondents identifying mental health as a key healthcare priority.<sup>1</sup>



**There's got to be some way to make mental healthcare more affordable.** I don't think there's enough access to it that's advertised or put out there, where people know they can get help for something that's bothering them.

**Supervisor, Executive, R**



**We need people that truly want to help...** we should have human resources and the ability to help everybody that has mental health challenges **and access to medication.**

**Consultant, Executive, R**

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## Making healthcare more accessible

Policymakers hope to advance access to healthcare by implementing processes that are inclusive of all people, particularly those with disabilities.



The first thing that comes to mind [to improve healthcare]]is these self-service kiosks where you sign yourself in... many of these kiosks are not accessible to people who can't see, they don't talk. So I'd like to see some sort of **push towards some consistency and accessibility on that front.**

**Consultant, Executive, D**

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## Collaboration to improve healthcare

Policymakers believe more collaboration between the government and private sector is necessary when it comes to providing affordable healthcare, specifically in regards to mental health.



I think [mental health] is a crisis that really needs more attention...there is no good mental health [service] available unless you can afford \$150 an hour. I don't think the state or the United States is taking it seriously enough...it's the private industry as well. There's got to be some way to make it more affordable.

**Supervisor, Executive, R**

## Conclusion

Policymakers are concerned that high healthcare costs are making it difficult to provide adequate health services, especially in the mental health realm. Respondents want to see the government and private sector collaborate to bring down costs and promote accessible healthcare.

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## About Penta Policy Insiders

Penta Policy Insiders provides direct feedback from policymakers to government relations professionals, improving advocates' ability to understand, validate, and improve the efficiency and effectiveness of their engagement.

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### Citations

1. <https://www.nami.org/NAMI/media/NAMI-Media/StateFactSheets/FloridaStateFactSheet.pdf>

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Qualitative n: 30 | Quantitative n: 228

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