

**Penta** Policy Insiders

# Florida Insights Review Series

Healthcare

September 2023  
[policyinsiders.pentagroup.co](https://policyinsiders.pentagroup.co)

# Executive summary

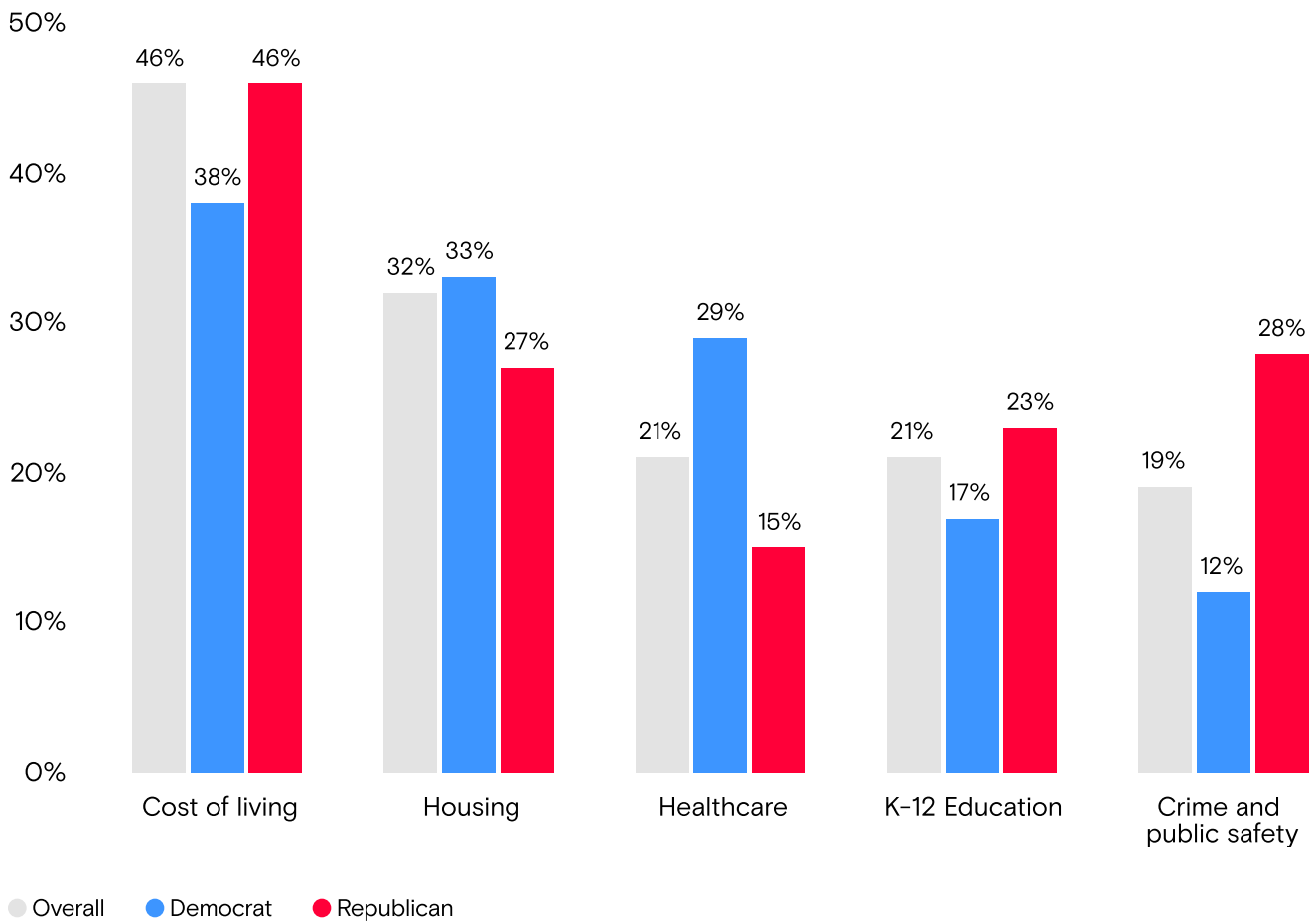
We are pleased to share our findings from this year's Florida Insights Review. From March to July 2023, we interviewed 292 policymakers in the state to learn about their policy priorities and top issues faced by communities across the state.

Cost of living is the top concern among Florida policymakers, with 46 percent of policymakers selecting it as leading priority. Additionally, 32 percent of policymakers cite housing to be a significant issue in the sunshine state, with policy staff on both sides of the aisle identifying challenges around affordable housing, homelessness, and high rental costs. Additionally, our research revealed healthcare and K-12 education as the other top priorities for policymakers and key influencers in Tallahassee and around Florida.

This report is third in a series that examines four of Florida Policymakers' top priorities, which include (i) Cost of Living (ii), Housing (iii), Healthcare, and (iv) K-12 Education.

## Top policy priorities in Florida

Multiple selections permitted



## Florida deep dive

# Healthcare

Healthcare is a key focal point for policy staff, particularly for Democrats in the state. While Republicans rank it as a lower priority issue than crime and public safety, housing, and K-12 education, policymakers on both sides of the aisle have strong opinions about the key challenges in Florida's healthcare space.

Access to healthcare is the overarching theme when it comes to the areas of improvement policy staff emphasize. The high cost of healthcare is believed by both parties to be the main healthcare issue in the state, with 84 percent of Democrats and 69 percent of Republicans identifying it as a challenge. When it comes to improving health outcomes, policy staff also report behavioral and mental health and lack of insurance coverage as areas that need attention.

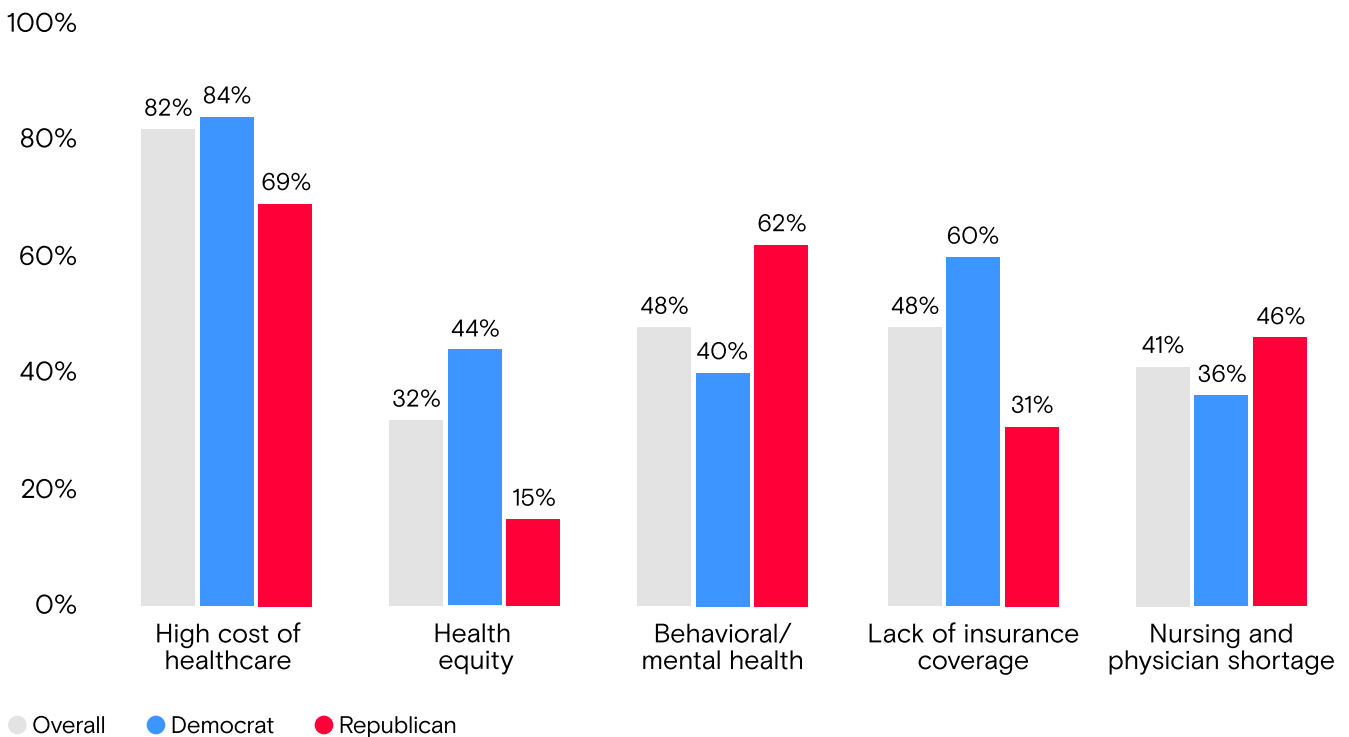


I would say healthcare [is a top priority], specifically, trying to find ways that the state level to increase access and transparency in the healthcare sphere.

**Director of External Affairs, Legislative, R**

### Top healthcare priorities in Florida

Multiple selections permitted



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## The high cost of less access

There are a multitude of healthcare-related issues that Floridian policymakers are focused on, all of which ultimately impact access to healthcare in the state. From high costs to a lack of encompassing insurance policies to a shortage of nurses and physicians, policy staff are generally concerned about the lack of uniform and quality access, and the toll it is taking on their constituents – physically, mentally, and economically.

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I mean, to me, **it's always how you provide equal access to the system...** I was just always looking for ways to increase access for people that don't have the economic means to... access to primary care is always an issue. The cost of medical education is a serious issue. I mean, we just go on and on and on.

**Partner, Public Policy, Private, D**

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Access to healthcare...should not be restricted. And providers should be ample... Just access to healthcare is important, knowledge is important, and getting that awareness to communities who are most in need.

**District Aide, Legislative, D**

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Unless you're working for the state of Florida, unless you're working for a big company, I think most **people would tell you they pay too much for health insurance**, which is true. I would say that many plans, especially in the individual market, **don't cover enough and aren't actually quality health insurance plans...** I think that legislators everywhere should be focusing on healthcare, different ideas to get costs down... It's not affordable. It can bankrupt the family. **That's why it's a priority for us, because it's not really a partisan issue.** Parties... don't disagree that our health insurance market is not good.

**Director of External Affairs, Legislative, D**

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## Conclusion

Policy staff in Florida want to improve access to healthcare and acknowledge that reaching this goal will require addressing issues such as the high costs of services and coverage and lack of quality insurance plans. Policymakers also recognize that even though leaders from both parties may have different priorities about the areas to focus on, addressing healthcare challenges is a top issue on both sides of the aisle.

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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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