

DATA BRIEF: VISITABILITY IN FLORIDA

What is Visitability?

Visitability is the ability for all individuals to visit other peoples' homes, regardless of physical ability. Visitability relates to universal design and allows persons with disabilities to remain in their homes. Knowing that others' homes are accessible allows individuals with disabilities to spontaneously visit others and increases the opportunity for their integration into social networks.

Features of a visitable home:

1. At least one entrance without a step ("zero-step entrance")
2. Doorways wide enough to accommodate a standard wheelchair (≥ 32 inches)
3. One bathroom on the main floor of the house

Importance of Visitability:

Healthy People 2020 Objectives:

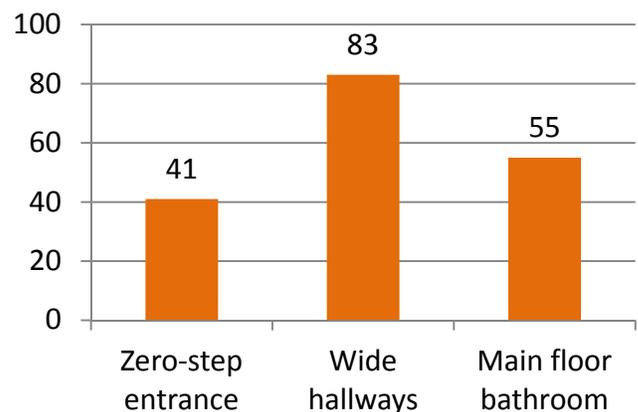
- DH-9: Reduce the proportion of people with disabilities who encounter environmental barriers to participating in home, school, work, or community activities.
- DH-11: Increase the proportion of newly constructed and retrofitted U.S. homes and residential buildings that have visitable features.

Visitability in Florida

The Florida Office on Disability and Health developed a series of survey questions to understand visitability in Florida. These questions were included on the Florida Consumer Confidence Index (FCCI) random digit dial telephone survey during two months in 2010 and 775 adults aged 18 and over in the state responded to the questions.

The FCCI included questions about the respondents' health status and need for assistance and also about the needs of other people living in their households.

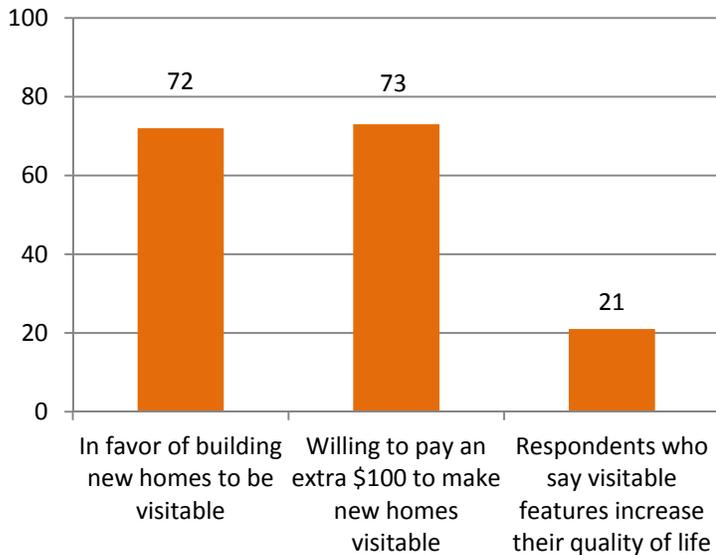
Percent of Respondents that reported Visitability Features in their Florida Homes



Respondents were asked to indicate which of the three visitability features are found in their homes. Wide hallways were the most common visitability feature found in Florida homes.

Respondents with a disability or respondents living in a household with someone who had a disability were no more likely than respondents without a disability to report that they supported building new homes with visitability features.

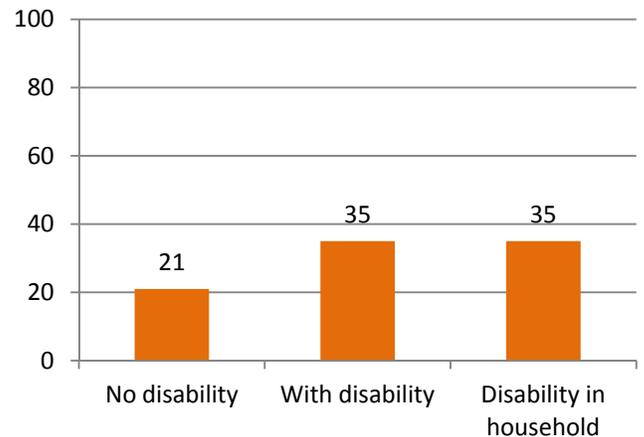
Percent of Respondent Opinions about Visitability in Florida



The percent of respondents who are willing to pay an additional \$100 for visitable new homes was similar regardless of individual or household-level disability status. However, respondents with a disability were more likely to report that visitability features improved their quality of life.

These data provide valuable insight into the presence of visitability features in Florida homes and the attitudes of Floridians toward the importance of visitability. Findings suggest strong support for constructing visitability features in newly constructed homes.

Percent of respondents who report visitability features increase quality of life



Respondents who had a disability or lived in a household with a person with a disability indicated that these features increased their quality of life compared to respondents with no disability in the household.

Recommendations for Change:

- Incorporate visitability features into new homes as part of standard home construction.
- Include visitability information to realtors and buyers during home purchases.
- Continue to investigate the accessibility of homes and communities to increase the ability for persons with disabilities to interact with neighbors to improve quality of life.