2011 FLORIDA BRFSS DATA BRIEF: VISITABILITY IN FLORIDA

What is Visitability?

- Visitability is the ability for all individuals to visit other peoples' homes, regardless of ability
- Visitability relates to universal design and allows aging adults to remain in their homes

Importance of Visitability

Knowing that others' homes are accessible allows individuals with disability to spontaneously visit others and increases the opportunity for social networking.

Relation to Healthy People 2020 Objectives

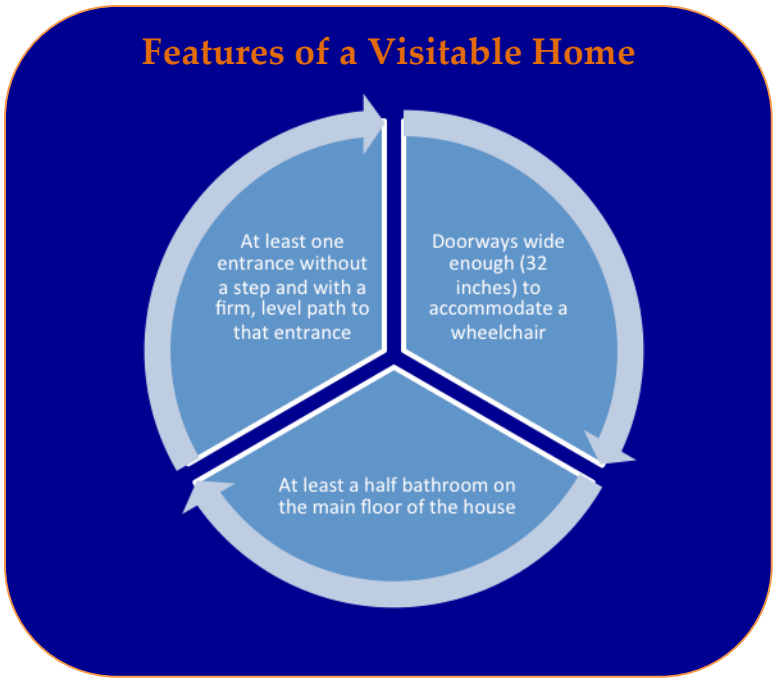
- DH-9: Reduce the proportion of people with disabilities who encounter environmental barriers
- DH-11: Increase the proportion of newly constructed and retrofitted U.S. homes and residential buildings that have visitable features

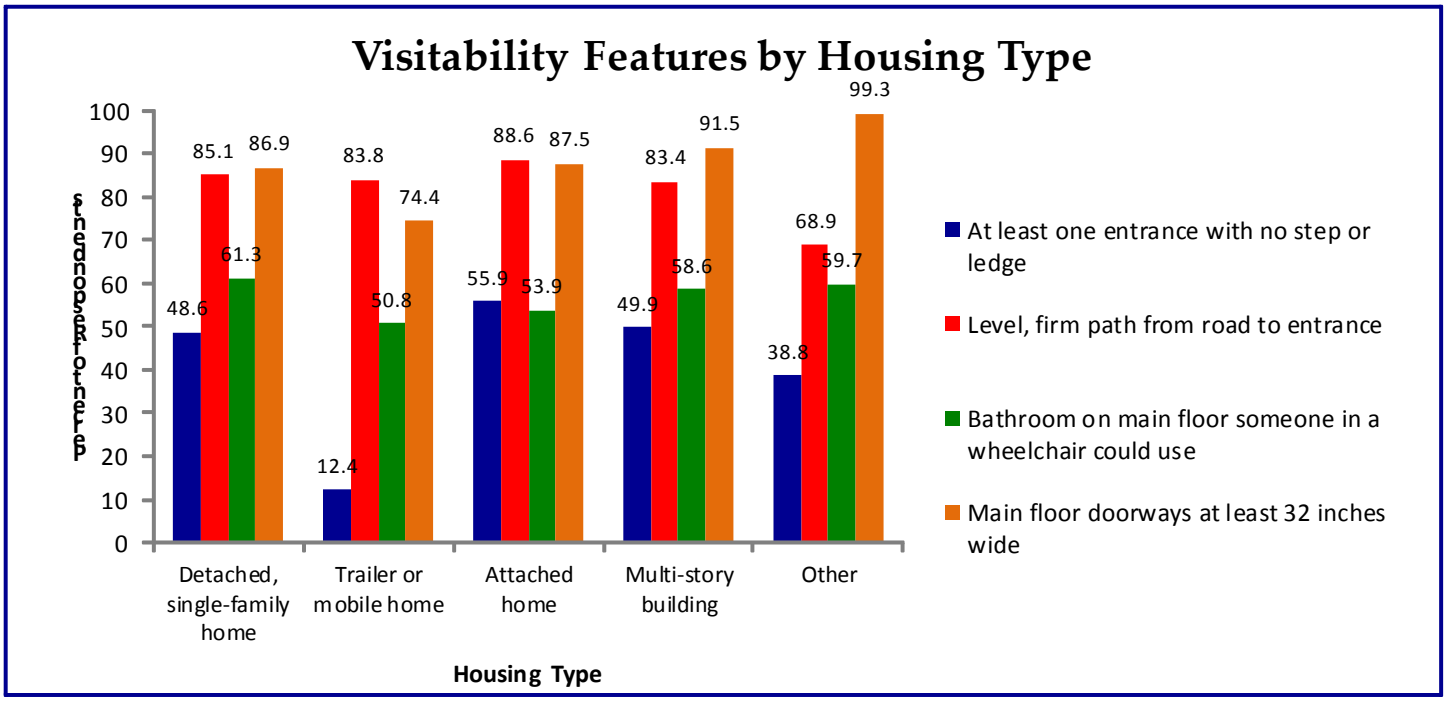
Visitability in Florida

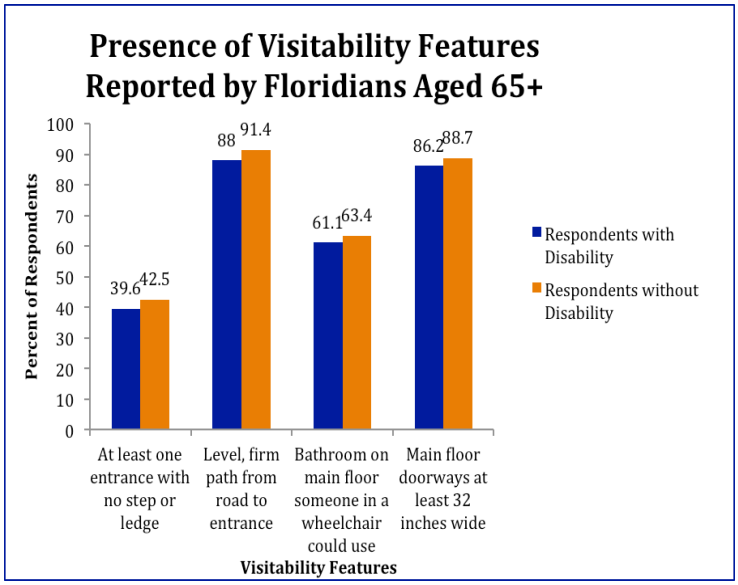
The Florida Disability and Health Program developed a series of survey questions to understand visitability in Florida. Theses questions were included on the 2011 Florida Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System (BRFSS), a random digit dial telephone survey, and 12,399 adults aged 18 and over in the state responded to the questions.

Questions regarding visitability on the 2011 Florida BRFSS included:

- Type of housing that Floridians reside in
- Whether visitability features according to the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) standards for accessible design are present
- Opinions among Floridians about building new homes with visitable features such as paved walkways, at least one unobstructed entrance, and an accessible bathroom on the main floor of the residence







These data provide valuable insight into the presence of visitability features in Florida homes. Furthermore, individuals who were aged 65 and older with no disability at the time of the survey reported higher proportions of visitability features than persons with disabilities in the same age category.

Implications

- Homes can become more accessible by the inclusion and use of visitability features
- Persons with disabilities may visit homes spontaneously thereby increasing opportunities for social networking and mental health
- Homes with visitable features may allow persons with disabilities to reside in their homes as they age

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 and to improve quality of life.