

Regular Health Care Services

- An intensive study by the Foundation for Island Health revealed that over 70% of year-round residents and 84% of part-time residents surveyed saw a doctor for regular health care services. But one in four residents went off-Island to seek health care services because they were not able to get a doctor's appointment within a reasonable amount of time or they needed specialty care that was not available on the Vineyard. Some people also replied that they preferred to see doctors off-Island. The foundation's survey also concluded that Vineyarders in 2002 were very healthy compared to the rest of the country. Overall, we are in better shape, less likely to be obese and smoke less. It also noted that one in three year-round respondents reported regularly using a complementary or alternative care practitioner such as touch, herbal or other therapy, which the report states is "a lot more common than" on the mainland.

Emergency Room Admissions

- The raw numbers of ER admissions indicate that the summer time admission rates place more strains on the ER than the winter months. Until there is further analysis, the rates of admission for both winter and summer would indicate that there is an insufficient amount of health care services that specifically deal with either non-emergency ailments or routine health care services. In a recent health care survey, 29% of year round residents who were surveyed reported to use the ER in 2001 and 2002 for non-emergency related services and 12% of part time residents surveyed reported the same thing.

School Enrollments

- As of January 1, 2006, there were 2,209 students enrolled in the public school system on the Vineyard. There were 821 students in the Martha's Vineyard Regional High School, grades 9-12. There were 1,388 elementary students in grades K-8; including 52 in the Chilmark School, 346 in the Edgartown School, 392 in the Oak Bluffs School, 298 in the West Tisbury School, and 300 in the Tisbury School.
- An additional 159 students were enrolled in the Martha's Vineyard Public Charter School, grades K-12 (also as of January 1, 2006).