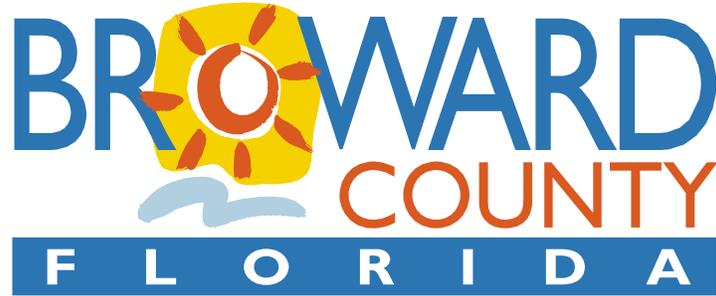


**ADDITIONAL MATERIAL  
REGULAR MEETING**

**APRIL 16, 2024**

**SUBMITTED AT THE REQUEST OF  
OFFICE OF THE COUNTY AUDITOR**



# Special Review of the Broward County Preventive Health Care Screenings Pilot Project

## Office of the County Auditor

### Special Review Report

**Robert Melton, CPA, CIA, CFE, CIG**  
County Auditor

**Special Review Conducted by:**

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**Report No. 24-16**

**April 15, 2024**



**OFFICE OF THE COUNTY AUDITOR**

115 S. Andrews Avenue, Room 520 • Fort Lauderdale, Florida 33301 • 954-357-7590 • FAX 954-357-7592

April 15, 2024

Honorable Mayor and Board of County Commissioners

Pursuant to a Commissioner's request, we have conducted our special review of the Broward County Preventive Health Care Screenings Pilot Project (Pilot Project). The objective of our special review was to analyze and report on various aspects of the Pilot Project.

In this report, we discuss the project overview, eligibility requirements, application process, project status, participant test results, project budget and costs, and general observations. Our special review is not intended to reach a conclusion on viability and advisability of continuing or expanding the Pilot Project. Accordingly, we express no such opinion.

We conducted our work in accordance with applicable standards contained in Government Auditing Standards, issued by the Comptroller General of the United States with the exception of the impairment of access to supporting records which restricted our ability to verify data reported. This limited our ability to conduct our work, and accordingly, we included such procedures as we considered necessary in the circumstances. This special review also did not include an evaluation of internal controls as internal controls were not within the objectives, and would not have been accessible within the agreements with various test providers.

We appreciate the cooperation and assistance provided by County Administration, Human Services Department, Office of Public Communications, County Attorney's Office, Office of Management and Budget, and the Pilot Project Consultant and Administrator staff throughout our special review process.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Bob Melton".

Bob Melton  
County Auditor

cc: Monica Cepero, County Administrator  
Andrew Meyers, County Attorney  
Kimm Campbell, Deputy County Administrator  
Tara Williams, Director of Human Services

**Broward County Board of County Commissioners**

Mark D. Bogen • Lamar P. Fisher • Beam Furr • Steve Geller • Robert McKinzie • Nan H. Rich • Hazelle P. Rogers • Tim Ryan • Michael Udine  
[www.broward.org](http://www.broward.org)

# TABLE OF CONTENTS

- PROJECT OVERVIEW..... 1
- ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS ..... 6
- APPLICATION PROCESS ..... 8
- PROJECT STATUS ..... 10
- TEST RESULTS..... 17
- PROJECT BUDGET AND COSTS ..... 20
- OBSERVATIONS ..... 23
  - 1. The Coronary Computer Tomography Angiogram (CCTA) Test for Asymptomatic Individuals is not Universally Accepted in the Medical Community..... 23
  - 2. The Current Test Availability at the Hospitals Will not Meet the Goal of Total Anticipated Number of Tests for the Pilot Project. .... 23
  - 3. There is no Process in Place to Verify That an Applicant is a Resident of Broward County as Required in the Agreement with SydCura. .... 24
  - 4. The Total Project Cost per Test is Approximately \$1,444 as of March 31, 2024. .... 25
  - 5. Some Expenditures are not Supported by Adequate Documentation. .... 25
  - 6. The Meeting Minutes of the Medical Advisory Committee Could be Enhanced. .... 26
  - 7. Data for Follow up Medical Care and/or Treatments After the Tests are not Collected. .... 26
  - 8. Initial Application Information is Solicited on a non-County Website..... 26
- APPENDIX - SCOPE AND METHODOLOGY ..... 27

# PROJECT OVERVIEW

## **Pilot Project**

The Broward County Preventive Health Care Screenings Pilot Project (Pilot Project) began on May 1, 2023, with the goal to provide Broward County residents with preventative cardiac screenings utilizing Computer Tomography (CT) machines and other diagnostic modalities. The Pilot Project is funded by Broward County and screening tests are provided by the Broward Health Medical Center (Broward Health), Broward Health North, Baptist Health, Holy Cross Hospital, and Cleveland Clinic Hospital.

## **Types of Tests Covered**

Under the Pilot Project, the preventive health care screenings, such as Coronary Computer Tomography Angiograms (CCTA) test and Calcium Scoring test, are provided to Broward County residents between the ages of 45 and 70 who meet certain risk criteria. Each person participating in the Pilot Project must be covered by a public (Medicare or Medicaid) or private insurance, to facilitate appropriate medical follow-up and treatment, as needed.

The budget allocated for the Pilot Project is \$10,000,000, with the objective to provide an anticipated total of 13,000 tests over the period of the Pilot Project. Based on the Implementation Plan for Broward County Health Screening Pilot Project, the goal of the project is to demonstrate that preventative screening tests will save lives. Currently the primary screening performed is the CCTA test and, as an alternative, the coronary artery calcium test (“Calcium Scoring”) is performed for individuals who have medical conditions preventing the CCTA test.

## **Agreements with SydCura Health Solutions and Celymor LLC**

Broward County has agreements with two entities to provide project administration and consulting services for the Pilot Project.

- **Project Administrator**

On June 7, 2022, the Board of County Commissioners (Board) authorized the County Administrator to execute an agreement between Broward County and South Florida Community Care Network, LLC, d/b/a SydCura Health Solutions (SydCura or Project Administrator) for administration and management services for the Preventive Health Care Screenings Pilot Project (Agreement with SydCura). SydCura is a limited liability

company of two members, the North Broward Hospital District and the South Broward Hospital District. The agreement was executed by the County Administrator on March 16, 2023. Under the agreement, SydCura provides administrative and management services, including but not limited to the following:

- Management and coordination of the project and required meetings, and contracts with participating healthcare systems / providers,
- Facilitation of the launch of the Pilot Project,
- Preparation of the online application for participants, development and maintenance of a public website, acceptance and confirmation of applications and informed consents,
- Verification and maintenance of the medical insurance and residency records,
- Screening of participants using established criteria,
- Scheduling of appointments, processing of invoices and claims from participating medical facilities and providers, and
- Creation and maintenance of a database of participant data, and preparation of quarterly reports.

The original value of the agreement was \$9.3 million, with an initial term of 28 months, expiring on July 15, 2026, and included one additional one-year optional period. SydCura is to invoice the County for:

- Implementation fees established for the completion of each of the milestones for a total amount of \$700,000;
- Preventative healthcare screenings conducted, on reimbursable basis of \$500 per test for CCTA test and \$100 per test for calcium scoring. County initially pre-funded a claims payment account in the amount of \$250,000 and agreed to monitor and maintain the minimum balance of \$100,000 in this account. SydCura uses the funds in this account to pay for the costs of the screenings to the hospitals.
- Administrative fees of \$45,305 monthly, starting November 2023.

The First Amendment to the Agreement with SydCura was executed on July 31, 2023, and reduced the contract value by \$150,000 to \$9.15 million. Further, as communicated by Broward County Office of Management and Budget, "Since the Heart Health Pilot has commenced, resources have been redirected". As a result, a total of \$750,000, of which

\$650,000 from the Optional Services in the SydCura Agreement and \$100,000 from the Agreement with Celymor (see more discussion in the next section) was redirected to marketing and advertising services that are handled by the Office of Public Communications.

- **Project Consultant**

On June 7, 2022, the Board of County Commissioners (Board) authorized the County Administrator to execute an agreement between Broward County and Celymor LLC (Celymor or Consultant) for consulting services for the Broward County Preventive Health Care Pilot Project (Agreement with Celymor). The agreement was executed by the County Administrator on September 16, 2022. Under the agreement, Celymor provides consulting services for the development and implementation of the Pilot Project, including but not limited to the following:

- Consulting regarding the identification of the appropriate Project Administrator and medical facilities and medical personnel to provide the preventive screenings, design and development of the public website;
- Coordination of a committee of medical professional to establish criteria for cardiac screenings and the appropriate screening test;
- Assisting with a preparation of the online application and disclosures;
- Aggregating data to analyze the results of the Pilot Project;
- Attending meetings with public and County staff;
- Conducting general overview of the Pilot Project for quality assurance and efficiency; and
- Preparing reports on the preventive screenings conducted, the aggregated and anonymized screening results, Pilot Project financial components (both administrative and medical costs and projected short- and long-term savings in terms of costs of medical care), and benefit to the public of the Pilot Project.

The original value of the agreement was \$700,000, with an initial term of one year, which expired on September 15, 2023, and an extension period up to 16 additional months. Per the terms of the agreement, Celymor invoices the County monthly in an amount of \$25,000 per month prior to June 1, 2023, and \$20,000 per month for services beginning June 1, 2023, and until completion or termination of the Pilot Project.

The First Amendment to the Agreement with Celymor was executed on August 2, 2023. It modified the agreement extension period from up to 16 additional months to provide an option until the completion of the Pilot Project, whichever is longer, but not beyond December 31, 2025; and reduced the scope of services and the contract value to \$600,000. The reduction of \$100,000 from the Agreement with Celymor was redirected to marketing and advertising services that are handled by the Office of Public Communications.

**Test Providers for the Pilot Project**

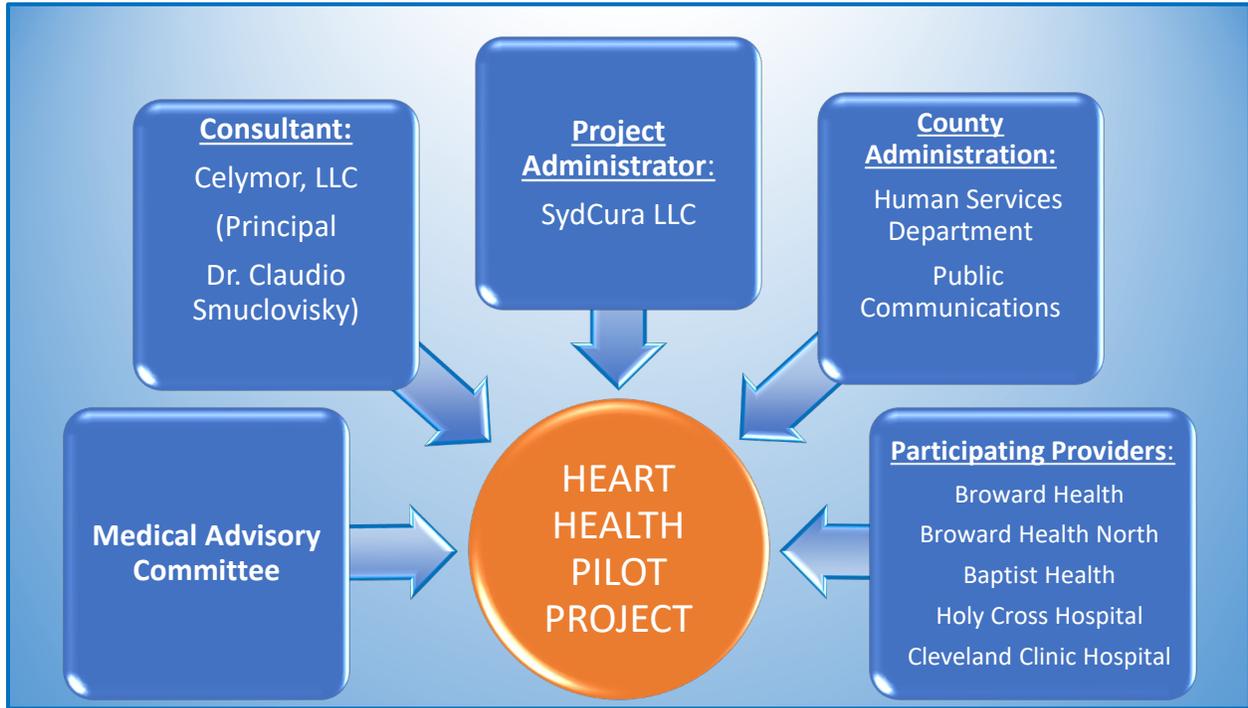
To provide the tests for the Pilot Project, the Medical Advisory Committee along with SydCura developed agreements with the Broward Health Medical Center (Broward Health), Broward Health North, Baptist Health, Holy Cross Hospital, and Cleveland Clinic Hospital. **Figure 1** shows the five providers, while **Figure 2** shows the entities involved in the administration of the Pilot Project.

**Figure 1**  
**Tests Providers for Pilot Project**



*Source: Obtained from SydCura.*

**Figure 2**  
**Entities Involved in the Administration of the Pilot Project**



*Source: Prepared by the Office of the County Auditor with information obtained from Human Services Department and SydCura.*

# ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS

To be eligible for the test, participants must answer questions to determine their eligibility in three steps. Step 1 is the initial screening, and participants must attest that they meet / answer 'YES' to **ALL** of the following questions shown in **Figure 3**.

**Figure 3**  
**Step 1 of Qualifying Criteria**

**Must answer YES to ALL of these questions to participate (1-3)**

1. Are you between the ages of 45-70 years old?
2. Do you reside in Broward County?
3. Do you have active Health Insurance?

*Source: Provided by SydCura.*

If applicants answer 'YES' to all of the questions in Step 1, they must then answer 'YES' to at least **ONE** of the following questions in Step 2 to continue to be considered for the Pilot Project, as shown in **Figure 4**.

**Figure 4**  
**Step 2 of Qualifying Criteria**

**Meets Criteria If answers YES to ONE of these questions**

4. Have you been diagnosed with Diabetes?
5. Have you been diagnosed with Hypertension?
6. Are you diagnosed with High Cholesterol?
7. Are you a smoker?
8. Do you have family history of coronary disease? (Mother, Father, Sister, Brother)

*Source: Obtained from SydCura.*

Once participants meet the requirements of Steps 1 and 2 above, they then have to answer 'NO' to **ALL** of the following questions as part of Step 3 as shown in **Figure 5**, to be qualified for the Pilot Project.

**Figure 5**

**Step 3 of Qualifying Criteria**

**Does Not Meet Criteria (if answers YES to ANY of these questions)**

9. Have you had a Cardiac CT Angiogram or Calcium Scoring performed within the last 5 years?
10. Are you allergic to IV iodine contrast? If YES offer Calcium Scoring exam
11. Do you have heart stents?
12. Do you currently have chest pains or shortness of breath?
12. Have you had any cardiac surgeries?
13. Are you receiving chemo or immunotherapy for cancer?
14. Are you currently using an inhaler for asthma?
15. Have you received a solid organ transplant (heart, liver, kidney)?

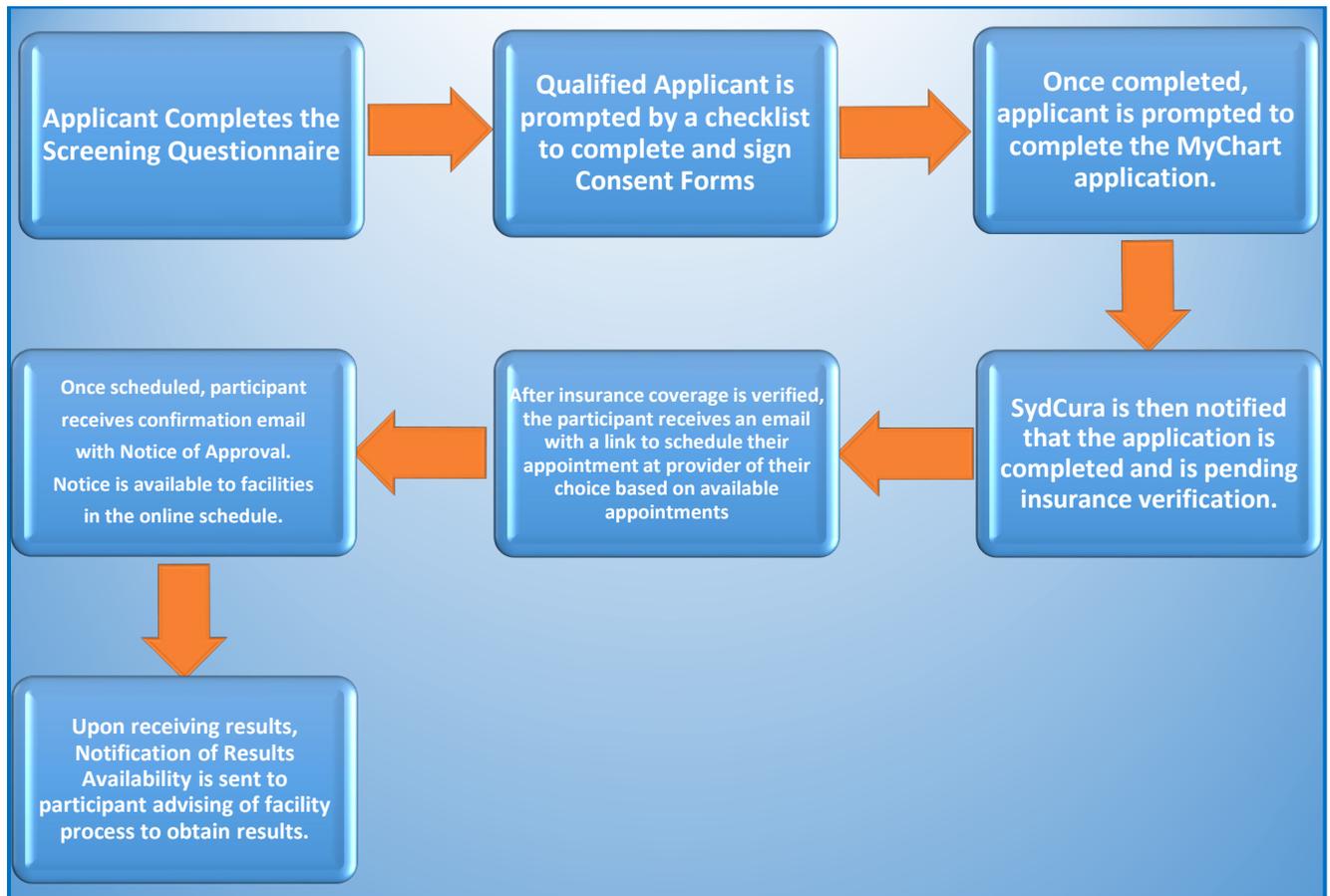
*Source: Obtained from SydCura.*

# APPLICATION PROCESS

## Application Process

Once participants meet the requirements in the eligibility section above, they then go through the following processes to complete a test as shown on **Figure 6**.

**Figure 6**  
**Online Application and Testing Process**



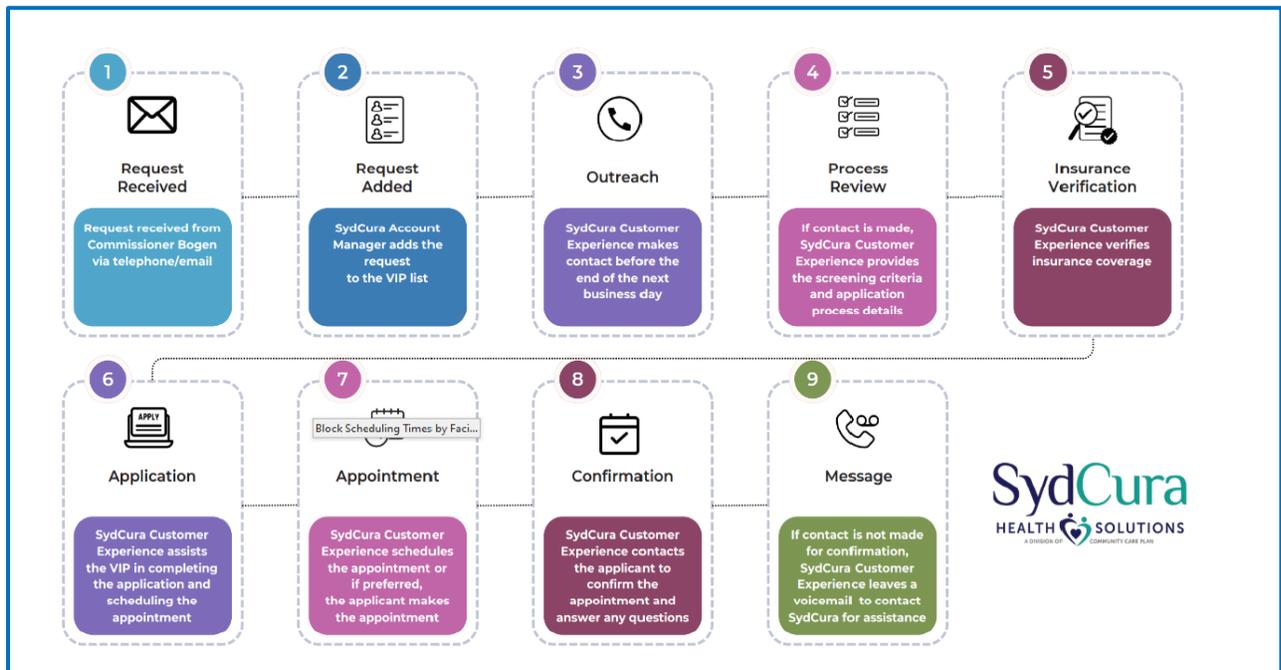
*Source: Prepared by the Office of the County Auditor with information obtained from SydCura.*

**Eligibility Exceptions**

Exceptions are made when a participant does not qualify based on the eligibility criteria. There is an agreed upon exception rate of 5%, and most of these exceptions are related to the age requirements. As of March 31, 2024, the exception rate calculated by SydCura is 5.93%. It is important to note that the agreed upon exception rate of 5% is for the entirety of the Pilot Project, not at any one point in time during the Pilot Project.

The flowchart from SydCura in **Figure 7** shows the process to help these applicants with eligibility exceptions for the Pilot Project, and if approved, schedule a test.

**Figure 7**  
**Manual Application Process Performed by SydCura**



Source: Obtained from SydCura.

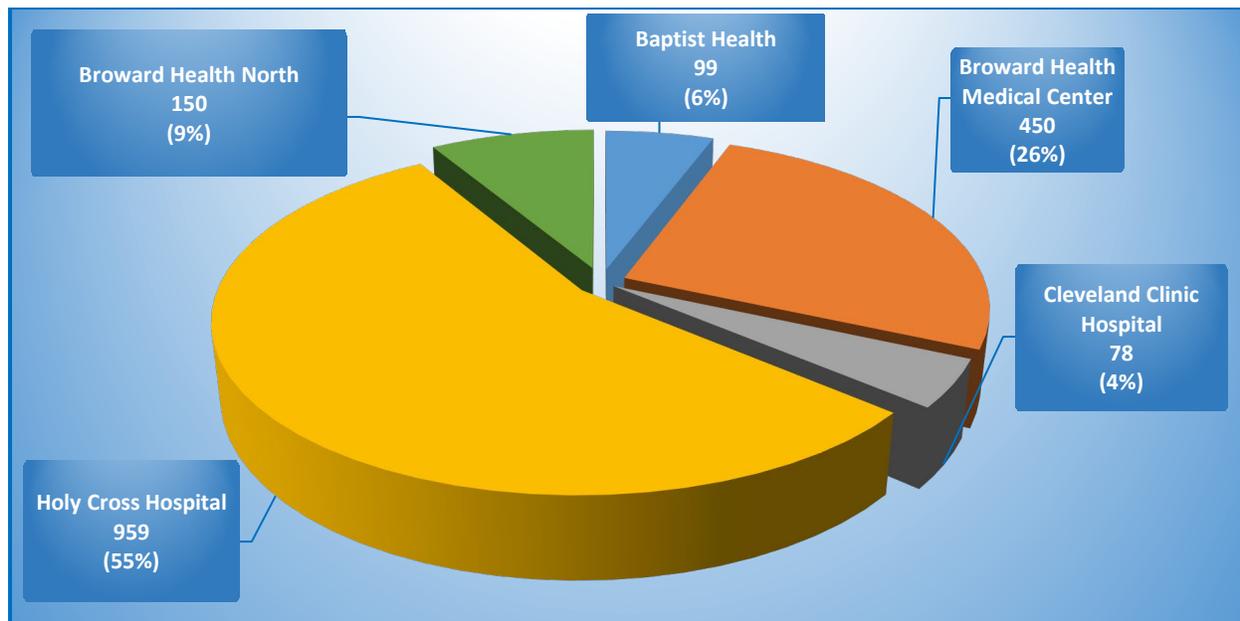
# PROJECT STATUS

As of March 31, 2024, SydCura reported that a total of 1,736 tests have been completed. We compiled results of the tests based on the limited demographic data we received to show a breakdown of testing performed at the different provider facilities, as well as by gender or race of the participants, and results of the tests.

## Tests by Facility

The majority of tests (55%) performed were at Holy Cross Hospital, which may be a result of Holy Cross Hospital having the most available appointments. Meanwhile, Cleveland Clinic Hospital accounted for the least amount (4%) of tests performed to date. A breakdown of the number and percentage of tests performed by provider is presented in **Figure 8**.

**Figure 8**  
**Tests Performed by Provider as of March 31, 2024**

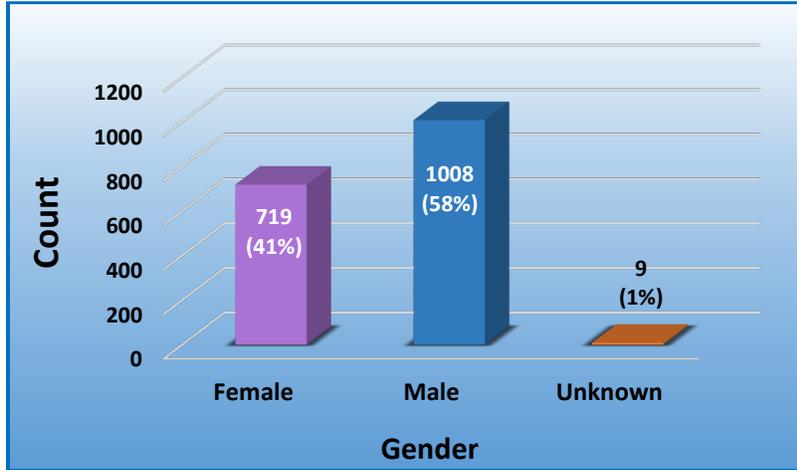


*Source: Prepared by the Office of the County Auditor with information obtained from SydCura.*

## Tests by Gender

We also compiled the number and percentage of the tests performed by gender. As shown in **Figure 9**, 58% of participants were men, while 41% were women.

**Figure 9**  
**Tests Performed by Gender as of March 31, 2024**

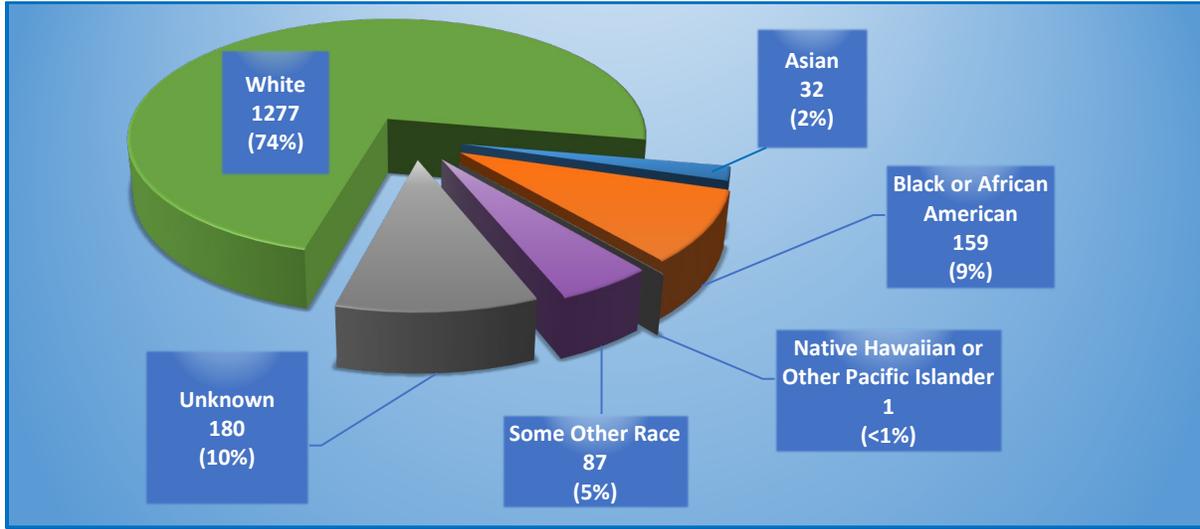


*Source: Prepared by the Office of the County Auditor with information obtained from SydCura.*

**Tests Performed by Race**

We further compiled the number and percentage of the tests conducted by race. We noted that the majority (74%) of the test participants were White and 9% of the test participants were Black or African American. The remaining 17% of participants were a combination of Asian, Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander, Some Other Race, or Unknown. **Figure 10** shows a summary of tests performed by race.

**Figure 10**  
**Tests Performed by Race as of March 31, 2024**

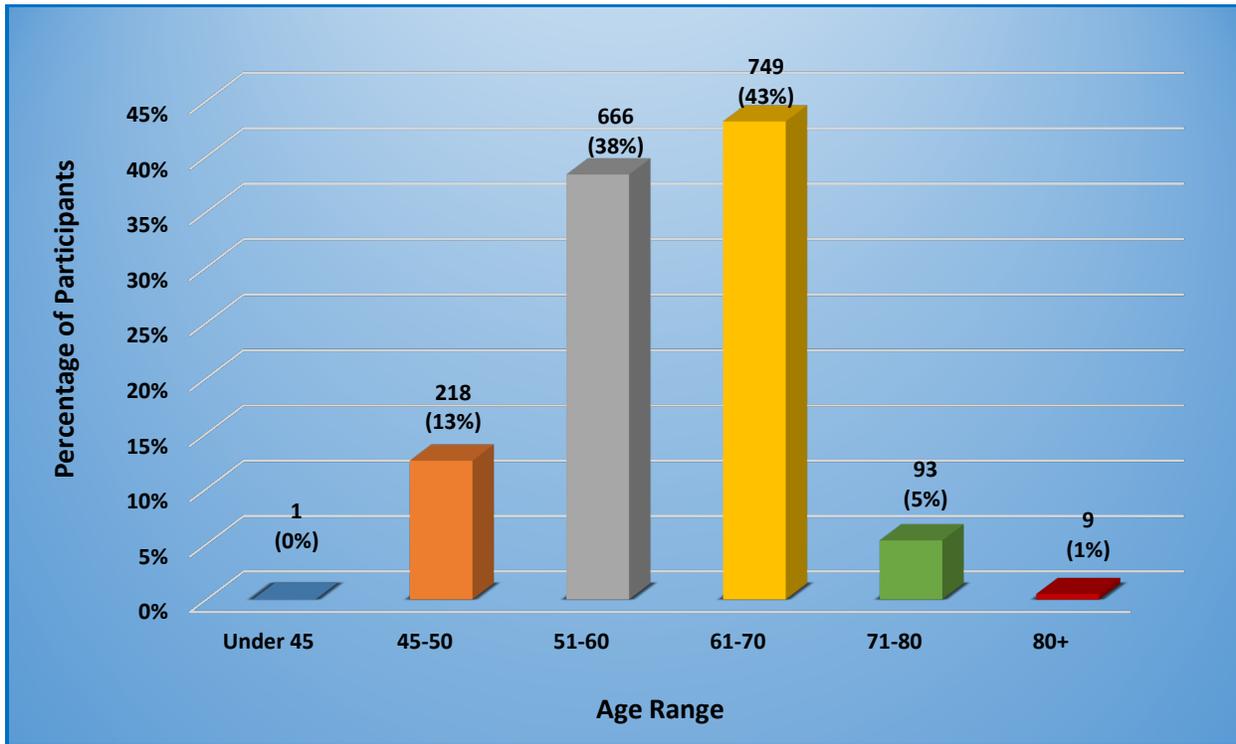


*Source: Prepared by the Office of the County Auditor with information obtained from SydCura.*

### **Tests Performed by Age**

We then compiled the number of tests performed to illustrate the tests by age range. The highest age range tested was the 61-70 group with 749 tests (43%) completed as of March 31, 2024. Due to the eligibility exceptions as discussed in the Process section, we also noted 103 tests for participants who were outside of the required ages of 45 and 70. **Figure 11** shows a summary of tests performed by age.

**Figure 11**  
**Tests by Age Range as of March 31, 2024**

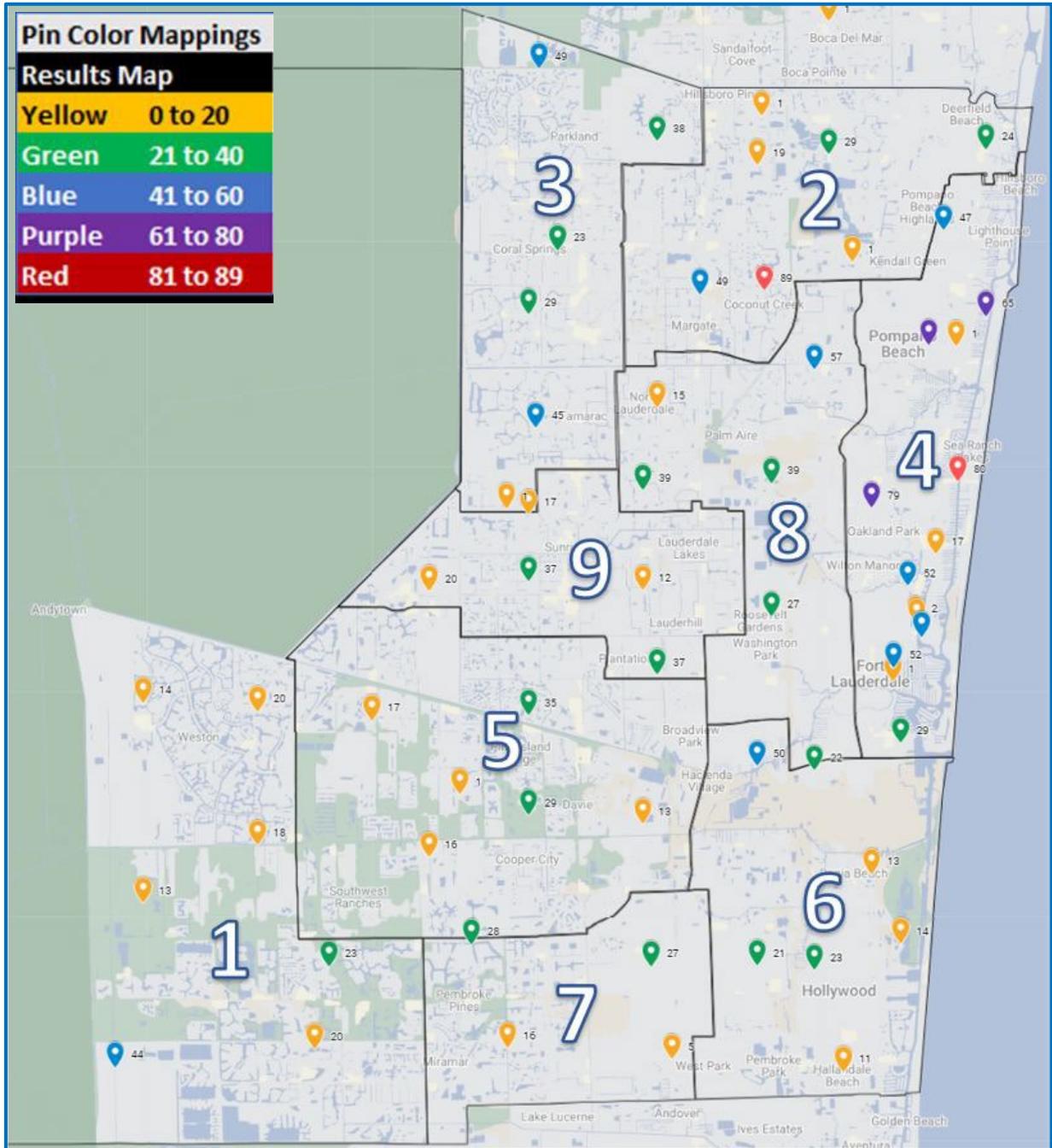


*Source: Prepared by the Office of the County Auditor with information obtained from SydCura.*

**Tests Performed by Commission Districts**

We also obtained limited data for all participants who completed a test, which is provided by SydCura as of March 31, 2024. Using this data, we plotted and overlaid the Commission Districts to show the distribution of test participants within the County on the map. However, the map does not provide a precise depiction of where the applicant lives in the District, as we have no access to the participant’s address information and the zip codes plotted falls within the geocoded position that Google approximates as the center. **Figure 12** shows zip codes of Pilot Project participants who received test results plotted by Commission Districts.

**Figure 12**  
**Zip Codes of Pilot Project Participants who Received Test Results**  
**Plotted by Commission Districts**



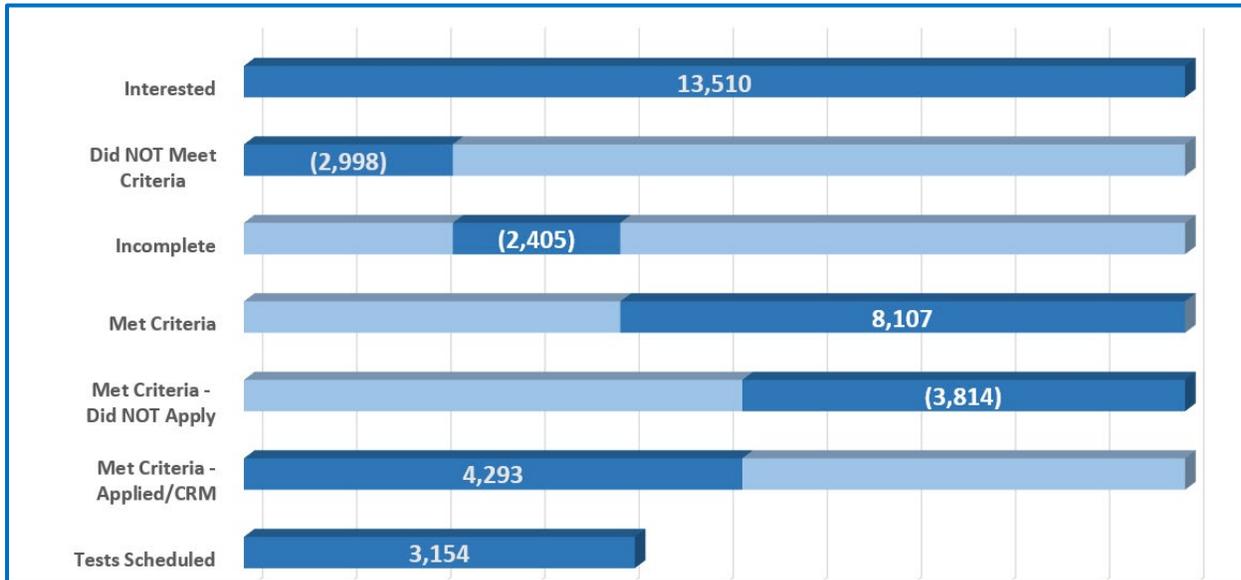
**Source:** Prepared by the Office of the County Auditor with information obtained from SydCura.

**Note:** The map does not provide a precise depiction of where the applicant lives in the District, as we have no access to the participant's address information and the zip codes plotted falls within the geocoded position that Google approximates as the center.

**Participant Information**

We reviewed the monthly statistical report provided by SydCura for March 31, 2024. From the presentation provided, we included the following charts related to Pilot Project for applicant information. **Figure 13** shows the interested participants, applications and tests scheduled for the Pilot Project to date.

**Figure 13**  
**Application, Interest, and Schedule Status as of March 31, 2024**



*Source: Obtained from SydCura*

SydCura provided a breakdown by criteria of applicants and how many of them did not meet the criteria as shown on **Figure 14**.

**Figure 14**  
**Persons Who did not Meet Criteria as of March 31, 2024**

<b>Did Not Meet Criteria – Reasons*</b>			
<b>Must Be</b>	<b>No/Yes</b>	<b>Must Not Have Any</b>	<b>No/Yes</b>
Broward County Resident	422/2596	Had Cardiac CT or Calcium Scoring	2447/571
Age 45 – 70	708/2310	Has Chest Pain or Shortness of Breath	2224/794
Active Health Insurance	350/2668	Using An Inhaler	2454/473
<b>Must Have At Least One</b>	<b>No/Yes</b>	Has Heart Stent(s)	2752/266
Smoker	2755/262	Had Cardiac Surgeries	2807/211
Diabetes	2535/482	Allergic to Iodine Contrast	893/40
Hypertension	1516/1501	Receiving Chemo- or Immunotherapy	2973/45
High Cholesterol	1214/1803	Had Solid Organ Transplant	3000/18
Coronary Family History	1213/1804		

*Source: Obtained from SydCura.*

SydCura also provided information on the appointments by facility, showing the number of scheduled appointments and ‘No-Show’ percentages, as shown in **Figure 15**.

**Figure 15**  
**Appointments by Facility as of March 31, 2024**

<b>Facility</b>	<b>Scheduled</b>	<b>No Show %</b>
Holy Cross	1446	4.5
Cleveland Clinic	292	2.7
Broward Health	801	8.2
Broward North	335	7.2
Baptist Health	280	8.2
<b>Total</b>	<b>3,154</b>	<b>5.9% [186]</b>

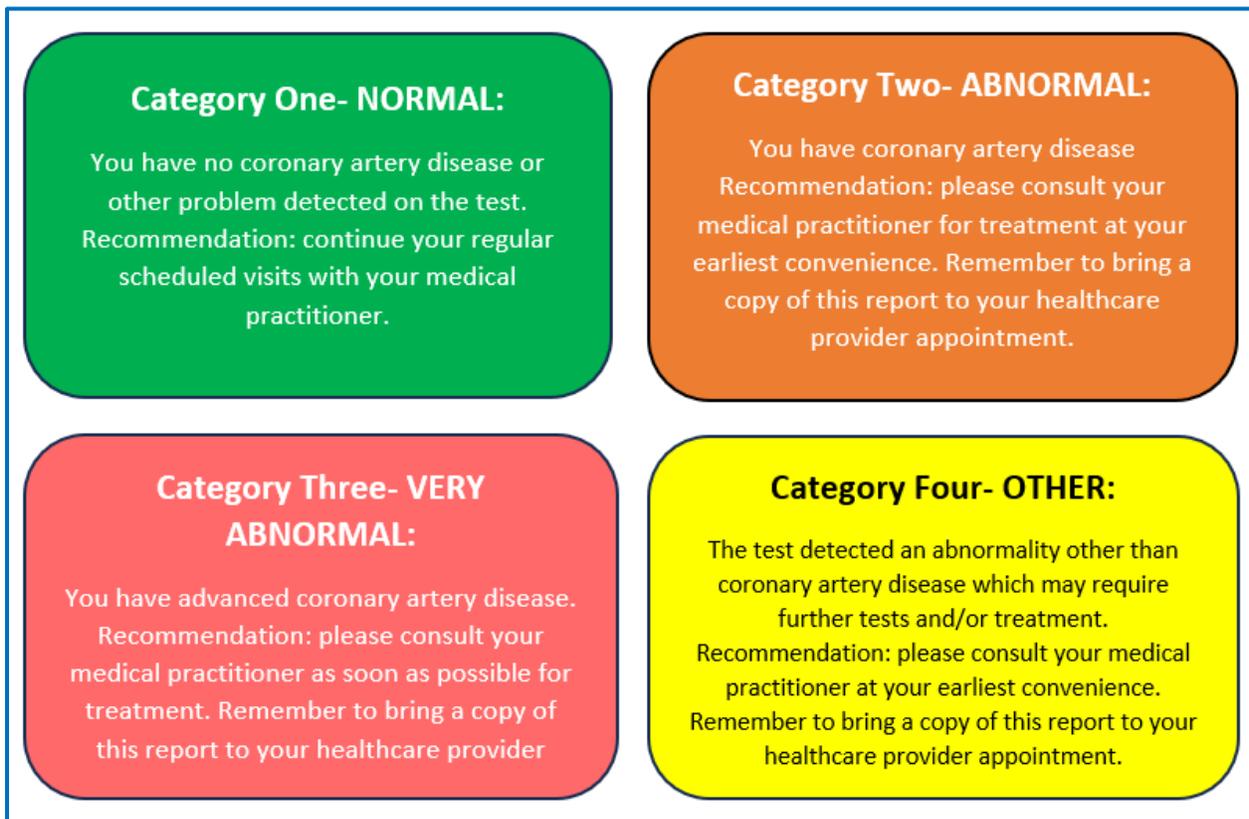
*Source: Obtained from SydCura.*

# TEST RESULTS

## Test Result Categories

Test results are provided to each participant after they complete their test. The results are categorized into the following categories as shown on **Figure 16**.

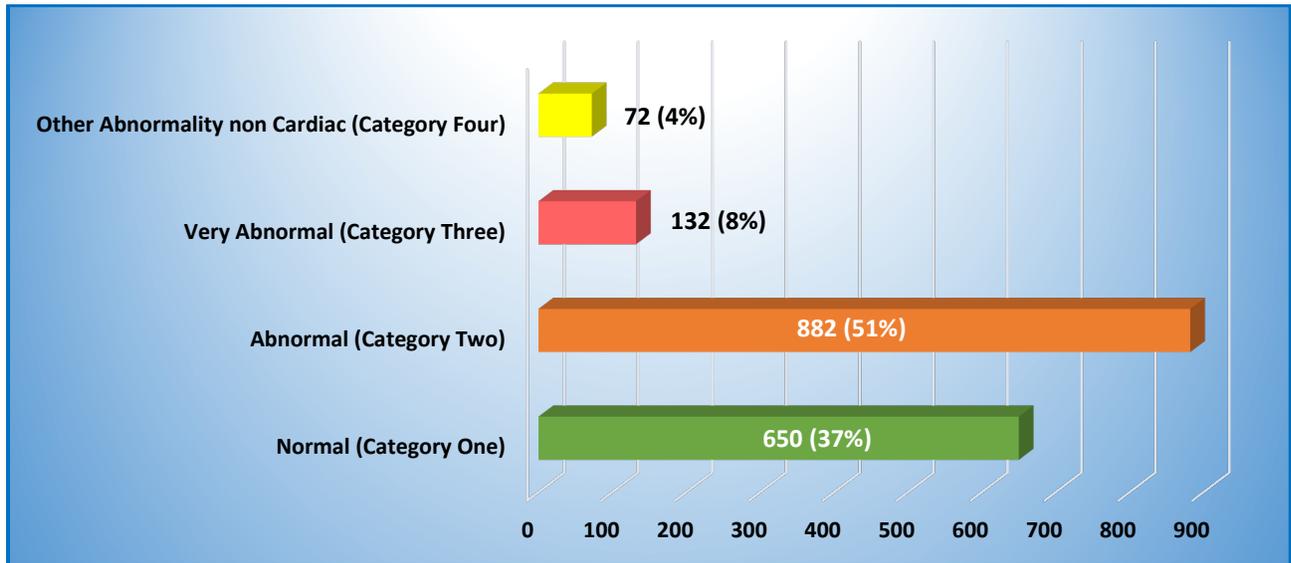
**Figure 16**  
**Test Result Categories**



*Source: Prepared by the Office of the County Auditor with information obtained from SydCura.*

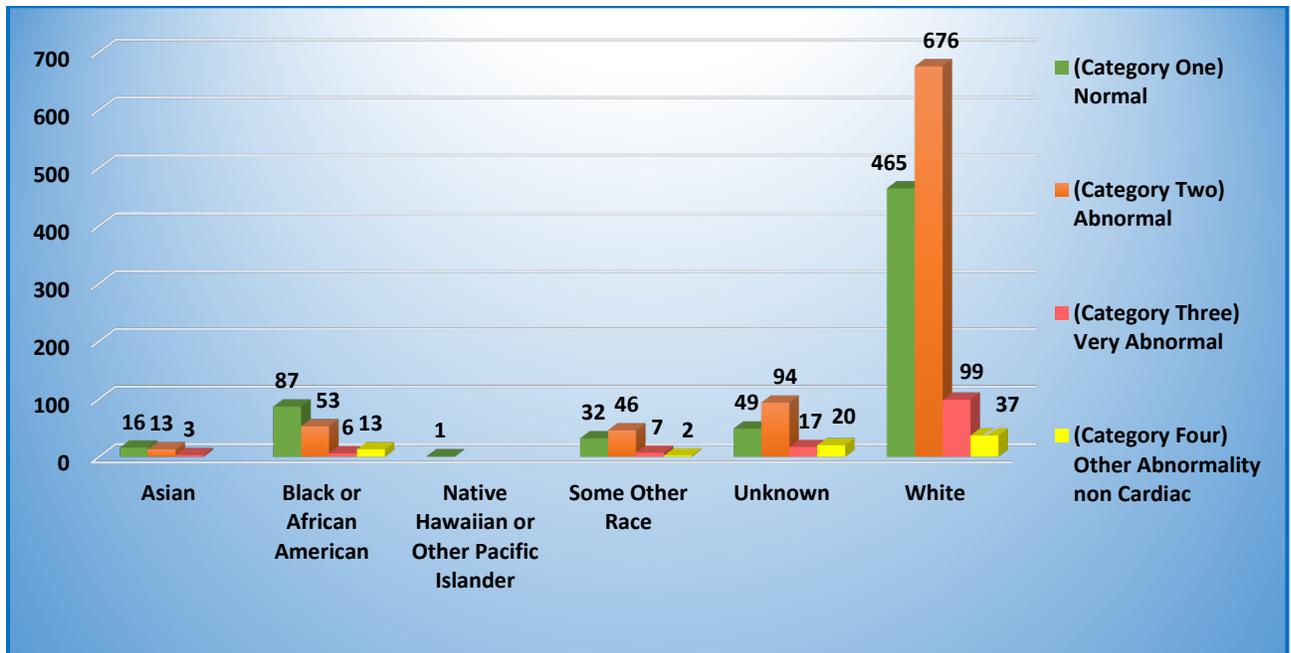
We also tabulated the test results by each participant to show the number of test participants who returned a result that was in one of the four categories: Normal, Abnormal, Very Abnormal, and Other Abnormality (Non-Cardiac). Based on the data provided by SydCura as of March 31, 2024, the majority of participants (59%) returned an abnormal or very abnormal result, and a normal result was returned for 37% of participants. **Figure 17** presents the breakdown of test results by category. **Figure 18** shows test results by category and race. Lastly, **Figure 19**, shows test results by age range.

**Figure 17**  
**Test Results by Category as of March 31, 2024**



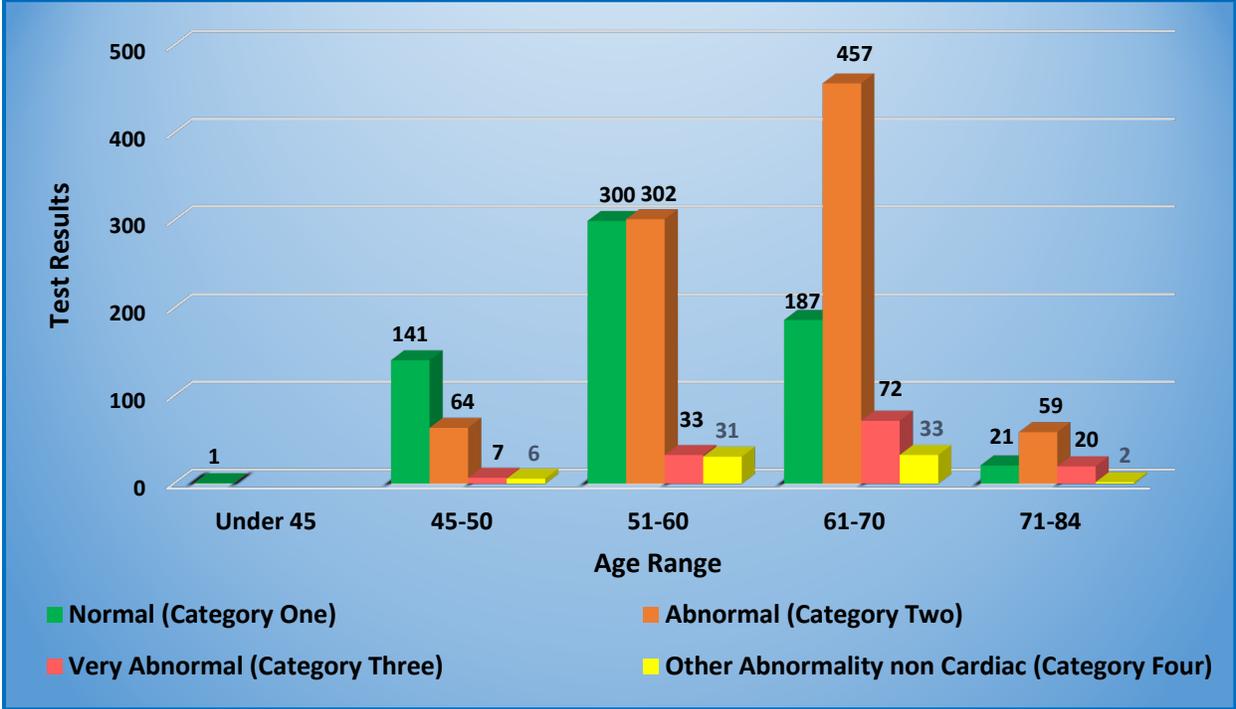
Source: Prepared by the Office of the County Auditor with information obtained from SydCura.

**Figure 18**  
**Test Results by Category and Race as of March 31, 2024**



Source: Prepared by the Office of the County Auditor with information obtained from SydCura.

**Figure 19**  
**Test Results by Category and Age Range as of March 31, 2024**



Source: Prepared by the Office of the County Auditor with information obtained from SydCura.

# PROJECT BUDGET AND COSTS

The funds approved by the Board for the Pilot Project were allocated between SydCura, Celymor, and the Broward County Office of Public Communications (Entities). **Figure 20** shows the budget and actual expenditures to date for each of these entities for the Pilot Project.

**Figure 20**  
**Budget and Actual Expenditures by Entity as of March 31, 2024**

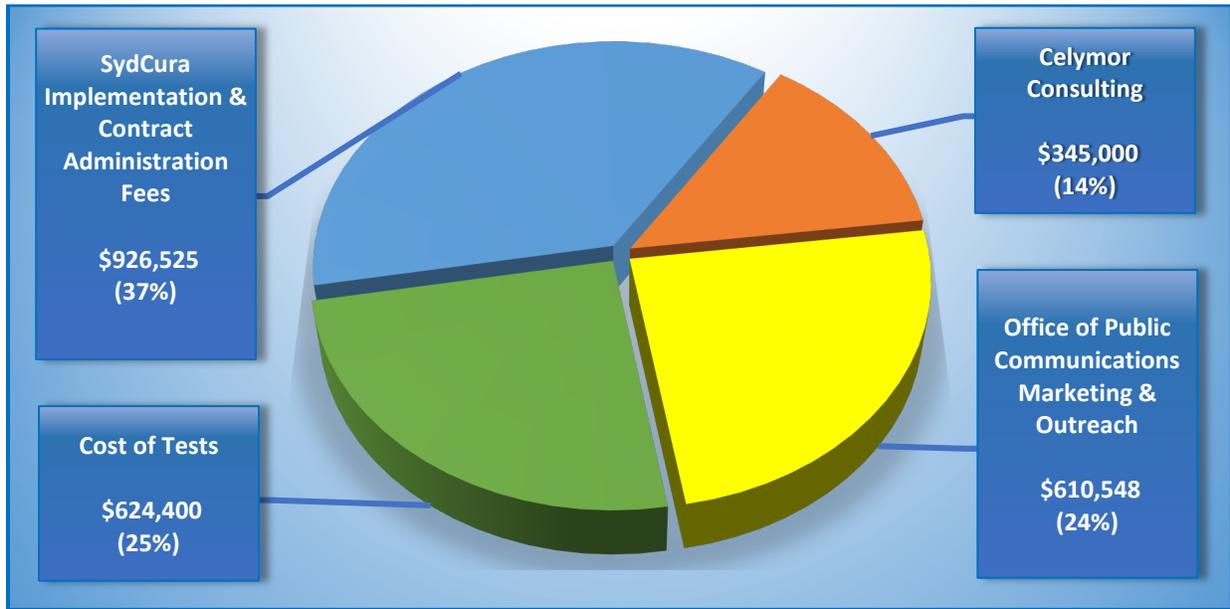
Entity / Description	Budget Amount	Actual Expenditures to Date
<b>SydCura Health Solutions</b>		
Services (other than screenings) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Implementation Fees</li> <li>• Administrative Fee</li> </ul>	\$1,696,710	\$926,525
Preventive Healthcare Screenings (reimbursement basis)	6,500,000	624,400
Optional Services	453,290	-
<b>Administrative / Management Services</b>	<b>\$8,650,000</b> <i>[Note]</i>	<b>\$1,550,925</b>
<b>Celymor, LLC (principal Dr. Claudio Smuclovisky)</b>		
Consulting	\$600,000	\$345,000
<b>Broward County Office of Public Communications</b>		
Marketing and Outreach	\$750,000	\$610,548
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$10,000,000</b>	<b>\$2,506,473</b>

**Source:** Prepared by the Office of the County Auditor with information obtained from SydCura, Human Services Department, Office of Public Communications, Office of Management and Budget, and PeopleSoft (Broward County Financial System).

**Note:** The contract total as amended is \$9.15 million. However, as a result of the resource redirection since the Pilot Project commencement, \$650,000 from the Optional Services in the Original Agreement with SydCura and \$100,000 from the Agreement with Celymor was redirected to marketing and outreach services that are handled by the Office of Public Communications.

Figure 21 shows total actual expenditures as of March 31, 2024, broken down by entity / service and cost of tests (provider claims).

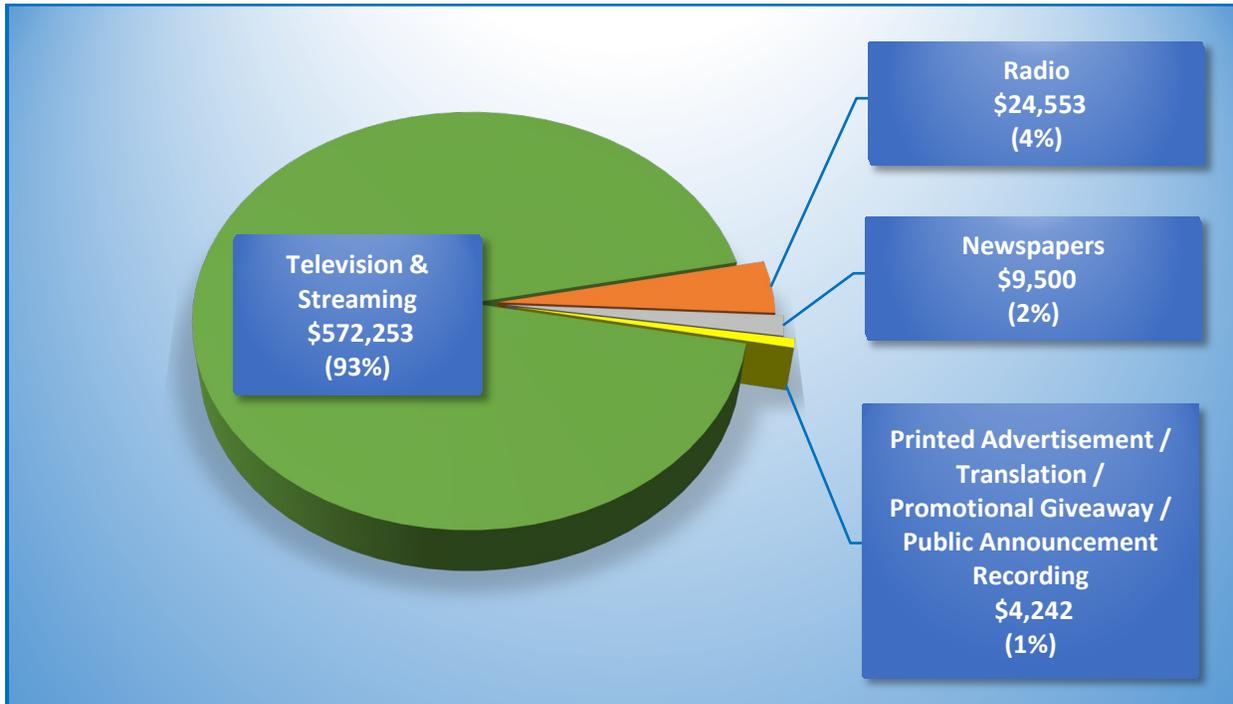
**Figure 21**  
**Total Actual Expenditures as of March 31, 2024,**  
**by Entity / Service and Cost of Tests (Provider Claims)**



*Source: Prepared by the Office of the County Auditor with information obtained from SydCura, Human Services Department, Office of Public Communications, and PeopleSoft (Broward County Financial System).*

Figure 22 shows a breakdown of marketing and outreach expenditures as of March 31, 2024, broken down by type of service.

**Figure 22**  
**Marketing and Outreach Expenditures as of March 31, 2024, by Type of Service**



*Source: Prepared by the Office of the County Auditor with information obtained from Human Services Department and PeopleSoft (Broward County Financial System).*

# OBSERVATIONS

Due to our special review objectives and scope limitations (further discussed in the next section), the objective of this special review is to analyze and report on various aspects of the Pilot Project. Below are observations that we identified through the review of the Broward County Preventive Health Care Screenings Pilot Project (Pilot Project).

## **1. The Coronary Computer Tomography Angiogram (CCTA) Test for Asymptomatic Individuals is not Universally Accepted in the Medical Community.**

The CCTA test for asymptomatic individuals is not universally accepted in the Medical Community. For example, the President Elect, Florida Chapter, American College of Cardiology stated that, based on the guidelines, “CCTA is rarely indicated, unless the risk is > 20% based on this risk calculator <https://tools.acc.org/ascvd-risk-estimator-plus/#!/calculate/estimate/>. However, as being proposed, screening all Broward County residents with only 1 risk factor would fall well under the < 20% range, making the test rarely appropriate aka inappropriate.”

## **2. The Current Test Availability at the Hospitals Will not Meet the Goal of Total Anticipated Number of Tests for the Pilot Project.**

- A. We reviewed all available appointments and total tests provided as of March 31, 2024. Our review showed that for the 11 months that the Pilot Project has been in operation since May 1, 2023, through March 31, 2024, a total of 1,736 tests were provided. This represents 13% of the total anticipated tests of 13,000, yet 39% of the project duration period has elapsed for the initial term of the Pilot Project. Further, we obtained the total available time slots for the five participating hospitals. Based on our review, there are a total of 88 slots currently available each week, which equates to 352 available time slots per month. With 17 months remaining for the initial term of the Pilot Project, the maximum number of additional participants who could be served would be 5,984.

As a result, a total maximum of 7,720 participants (59% of the total anticipated 13,000 tests) could be tested by the end of the initial term of the Pilot Project, if the available time slots for the five participating providers remain the same and the Pilot Project operates at full capacity for the remaining duration. However, if the Pilot Project is extended for the 12-month extension period as defined in the agreement with SydCura, the total maximum number of tests that could be performed would be 11,944.

- B.** We also evaluated how long it would take to serve the remaining 11,264 (13,000- 1,736) of the total anticipated tests given the current capacity. Given the current capacity of 352 appointments per month, it would take an additional 32 months until December 2026 to achieve that number of participants in the Pilot Project, assuming the program operated at full capacity. Based on our calculation, the monthly needed time slots total to 663 appointments if the 13,000 goal is to be met in the 17 remaining months of the initial term of the Pilot Project. However, if the Pilot Project is extended for the 12-month extension period as defined in the agreement with SydCura, the average number of tests that would be required monthly is 388 tests.

The shortage of slots can result in unanticipated bottlenecks and as such underserving the County residents as intended by the Pilot Project. Options for alleviating this situation include expanding the number of available slots, lengthening the duration of the Pilot Project, and/or adjusting the goal of number of participants to be served.

**3. There is no Process in Place to Verify That an Applicant is a Resident of Broward County as Required in the Agreement with SydCura.**

There is no process in place to verify that an applicant is a resident of Broward County as required in the Agreement with SydCura. Although applicants check a box as part of the online application indicating that they are Broward County residents when beginning the application, we noted that no supporting documentation is required, and no verification is performed to validate the residency of an applicant by SydCura. Although applicants need to provide the residency information at the screening locations, no verification of Broward County residency is required or performed by the staff at the screening locations. Based on the data provided by SydCura, we noted that two out of 1,736 participants who received a test result, resided outside of Broward County.

The lack of appropriate verification of the residency of the applicant could result in persons who are not Broward County residents obtaining such services in place of actual Broward County residents. Additionally, serving persons living outside of Broward County may result in improper utilization of County funds for ineligible individuals.

**4. The Total Project Cost per Test is Approximately \$1,444 as of March 31, 2024.**

As of March 31, 2024, the total project cost per test is approximately \$1,444. For the purposes of this calculation, we totaled all actual expenditures and divided by the total number of tests taken, as shown in **Figure 23**.

**Figure 23**  
**Total Project Cost Per Test as of March 31, 2024**

Description	Value
Total actual expenditures	\$2,506,473
Number of tests taken	1,736
<b>Total Project Cost Per Test</b>	<b>\$1,444</b>

*Source: Prepared by the Office of the County Auditor with the information obtained from SydCura and County staff.*

We acknowledge that the total actual expenditures for the Pilot Project from the start through March 31, 2024, include set-up costs and implementation fees, which have a heavier burden on the total project cost per test in the beginning of the Pilot Project.

**5. Some Expenditures are not Supported by Adequate Documentation.**

Initial invoices submitted by SydCura and Celymor to the County staff did not include detailed descriptions about services provided or supporting documentation. SydCura and Celymor started including details of the services provided after the County staff’s requests. When asked about support for services, SydCura stated that, in relation to invoices for implementation fees (part of the initial invoices), SydCura staff communicated that the Pilot Project status was discussed as part of weekly discussions with the County staff. In relation to the invoices for testing costs (claims), SydCura staff communicated that they offered to submit the claim payment information to the County; however, the County staff communicated that they do not want the information to include Protected Health Information. In relation to the invoices for administrative fees, SydCura staff communicated that they started providing detailed descriptions after County staff’s request.

We also reviewed the documentation for expenditures paid by the Office of Public Communications for marketing, advertising, and outreach services for the Pilot Project. However, our review noted that some expenditures were not supported by adequate documentation that would detail the type of services being paid.

## **6. The Meeting Minutes of the Medical Advisory Committee Could be Enhanced.**

The meeting minutes of the Medical Advisory Committee could be enhanced. The current meetings are not well documented. The meeting minutes do not provide sufficient details of discussions. Based on the meeting minutes provided by SydCura, we could not validate which members have voting and non-voting rights and if medical decisions were made based on inputs from non-medical personnel.

Sufficient details about discussions will assure public perception of the meetings serving the best interest of the public.

## **7. Data for Follow up Medical Care and/or Treatments After the Tests are not Collected.**

Data for follow up medical care and/or treatments after the tests are not collected. While the test results are ranked into four categories as described in the Test Results section of this report, the treatment information after the participant receives the CCTA results or calcium scores is not solicited or obtained. According to the County Attorney's Office, the Pilot Project was intentionally structured to avoid the County receipt or access to personally identifiable test data and to prohibit follow up with individual participants regarding their subsequent treatments and actions. These were intentional and known limitations based upon the legal judgment.

Ultimately, collection of follow up medical care and/or treatments (if any) after test results is an important indicator of the effectiveness of the Pilot Project and the impact it has to participants with abnormal and very abnormal test results. This would serve as a better indicator of the project efficacy to saving lives.

## **8. Initial Application Information is Solicited on a non-County Website.**

Initial application information is solicited on a non-County website. The domain [www.takehearttest.com](http://www.takehearttest.com) is personally owned by a County Commissioner and not by the County. While the County has a page discussing the Heart Test on its website ([Broward.org](http://Broward.org)), that webpage directs interested persons to the County Commissioner's personal website. Information collected include date of birth, name, address, telephone number, some current medical conditions, and some past medical conditions.

At the time of this review, it was unclear whether the websites used to collect the applicant information have been evaluated to ensure they meet the County's minimum-security requirements for applications that collect, transit and store Personal Identifiable Information (PII).

# APPENDIX - SCOPE AND METHODOLOGY

## Scope and Methodology

We conducted a special review of the Broward County Preventive Health Care Screenings Pilot Project (Pilot Project). The objective of our special review was to analyze and report on various aspects of the Pilot Project. Our special review was not intended to reach a conclusion on viability and advisability of continuing or expanding the Pilot Project. Accordingly, we express no such opinion.

The County Attorney's Office advised us that we did not have access to the participants' contact information, locations, and proportion of participants in specific areas of the Broward County beyond the zip codes. As a result, we could not apply normal audit procedures or otherwise verify the provision of the contracted services. Therefore, our special review is limited as follows:

1. We could not validate the number of applicants, tests conducted, or test results, and perform a survey of participants because we were denied access to participant contact information and could not review medical records for the participants.
2. We could not validate applicant information, including:
  - a. Participant interest,
  - b. Scheduled participants,
  - c. Eligible and ineligible applicants,
  - d. Reasons for incomplete applications,
  - e. Reasons for participant not scheduling an appointment,
  - f. No-shows

Our special review included such tests of records and other procedures, as we considered necessary. As a result, we did not validate accuracy and completeness of the information provided. The review period was June 7, 2022, through March 31, 2024. However, transactions, processes, and situations reviewed were not limited by the review period.

To conduct the review, we obtained reports, documents, and other statistical data from SydCura, the County staff, and the Consultant. In addition, we interviewed County staff, SydCura staff, County Consultant, and others. We analyzed data and made observations on the project and processes reviewed.