

**Health Director's Report
September 14, 2023**

Division / Program: Population Health / Epidemiology

Accreditation Activity 1.1: The local health department shall conduct a comprehensive community health assessment every 48 months.

Accreditation Activity 9.1: The local health department shall publish and disseminate data and information on current local health issues to the general public, community partners, and elected and appointed officials.

Division/Department: Population Health Team

Program Description

The Durham County Community Health Assessment (CHA) is done every three years by the Partnership for a Healthy Durham, the Durham County Department of Public Health (DCoDPH) and Duke Health. The CHA survey collects data directly from Durham County residents about what impacts their health. In 2013, 2016, 2019 and 2023, the Partnership for a Healthy Durham, the Durham County Department of Public Health and Duke Health have also conducted a Comunidad Latina survey along with the Countywide survey. The Comunidad Latina survey focuses on Durham County residents who identify as Hispanic or Latino. This survey is conducted in Spanish or English.

The purpose of this dashboard is to share 2016, 2019 and 2023 data from the Comunidad Latina survey. This data is not generalizable to entire Durham County Hispanic or Latino population, only those who took the survey. This is a separate data set from a County-wide survey and the two are not directly comparable. The 2023 survey was conducted in person at community events and locations, which is a convenience sample. Since this method was different than the door-to-door method used in 2016 and 2019, the 2023 results are not comparable to the other years.

The intent is to give access to the community to review the data from the surveys conducted. The Comunidad Latina survey contains more culturally appropriate questions for the Hispanic and Latino community. There are many overlaps in the questions asked throughout the year with 32 overlapping questions asked throughout the years. In 2023, we had 176 total responses, 186 in 2019, and 157 in 2016. Each section (physical activity, nutrition, access to care, personal health, emergency preparedness, etc.) contained between 2 and 5 questions with the data broken down by race, age and ethnicity when the data exceeded a threshold where the data was no longer identifiable.

Statement of Goals

- Utilize the data dashboard to help empower the writing quality and availability to the CHA writers and the public.
- Reinforce quality data services.
- Gather insightful qualitative data in the survey allows us to hear directly from Durham County residents on their health, their community, and what Durham County can do to improve the health of its residents.

- Analyze quantitative data to examine trends from pre-pandemic Community Health Assessments.

Issues

- **Opportunities**
 - Provide detailed data to our community members about past and present surveys.
 - Utilize real time data during the collection process to assess if a diverse sample of Durham residents is being surveyed.
 - Partner with local Hispanic or Latino organizations and the North Carolina Institute of Public Health.
 - A chance to engage with the community across all parts of Durham County.
 - Strengthen relationships with community partners, community members, and volunteers.
- **Challenges**
 - The Comunidad Latina survey could not be completed in the Fall of 2022 using the CASPR method due to low numbers of bilingual volunteers. This sample was completed using a web survey and community outreach in 2023, which made it unable to be compared to previous years data.

Implication(s)

- **Outcomes**
 - Over 550 surveys in 2016, 2019 and 2023 have been collected, reviewed, and analyzed to identify trends for the Comunidad Latina survey.
 - Although we have collected over 175 responses in 2023 this sample was completed using a web survey and community outreach, which made it unable to be compared to previous years data.
 - DCoDPH has worked with volunteers from DCoDPH, Duke University, Duke Health, YMCA of the Triangle, Partnership for a Healthy Durham, and local community members interested in the process and public health.
 - Although we cannot make a 1 to 1 comparison of the data, we saw a trend in the 2023 data where racism was reported more frequently than in previous years.
 - The number of homeowners in the 2023 survey was significantly higher than in previous surveys although we are unable to do the 1 to 1 comparison due to methodology in collection.
 - Participants reported cutting meals size or skipping meals because they were worried, they wouldn't have money for more either sometimes was significant in 2023.
 - Participants reporting never getting the emotional and/or social support they need was very high in 2023.

- **Staffing**
 - Population Health division staff
 - Epidemiologist – responsible for designing and finalizing the survey questions and leading the door-to-door survey process including trainings (Both in person and online).
 - Data Scientist – responsible for building the dashboards, managing the web cluster for data access and building the database where the data lives.
 - The Partnership for a Healthy Durham Coordinator – responsible for filling in for volunteers if needed, reaching out to networks (through the Partnership, Duke, El Centro, and more) to recruit volunteers.
 - Population Health Director – responsible for leading the CHA efforts and providing any technical, personnel, or volunteer support. She also provided historical context and previous years’ experience to improve this year’s efforts.
 - Partnership for a Health Durham committee members
 - Duke Health
 - North Carolina Institute of Public Health
 - DCoDPH staff

- **Revenue**
 - None

- **Next Steps/Mitigation Strategies**
 - Use this data dashboard to incorporate all future data from Comunidad Latina surveys.
 - Develop strategies and a plan to complete the Comunidad Latina survey.
 - Research other methods for completing the Comunidad Latina survey in the future.
 - Hold writer’s huddles and be available for data support to CHA writing partners.

Division / Program: Health Education & Community Transformation Division / Suicide Prevention and Awareness Education
(Accreditation Activity 12.3: The local health department shall participate in a collaborative process to implement population-based programs to address community health problems.)

Program Description:

- National Gun Violence Awareness Month (June) and National ASK (Asking Saves Kids) Day (June 21) have long been observed by the Firearm Injury Prevention Partnership (FIPP), formerly the Gun Safety Team, seated within the Durham County Department of Public Health (DCoDPH).

- Recently, a statewide observance highlighting firearm safe storage has come to the forefront. Governor Roy Cooper proclaimed the week of June 4-10, 2023, NC S.A.F.E. Week of Action to raise awareness about the importance of responsible gun ownership and urging gun owners to Secure All Firearms Effectively.

Statement of Goals

- To collaborate with partnering agencies, organizations and community leaders to assure widespread adoption of evidence-based safe storage practices shown to reduce the risk of injury and death due to firearms in the community.
- To raise awareness about the urgent need to effectively secure and prevent theft of firearms, especially from parked vehicles. The intent of these collaborative efforts is to:
 - Have conversations with other community leaders on ways to engage with community members on the topic of firearm safe storage.
 - Educate gun owners on best practices for firearm storage and safety.
 - Educate parents, pediatricians, and school resource officers on how to have conversations about firearm safe storage.
 - Help North Carolinians identify local options for temporary, voluntary firearm storage.
 - Create an event or bring the message of firearm safe storage to an existing event.

Issues:

- **Opportunities**
 - In April 2023, representatives of the DCo FIPP were approached by William Lassiter, Deputy Secretary for Juvenile Justice and Delinquency with the NC Department of Public Safety about organizing a community event in Durham County during the NC S.A.F.E. Week of Action, to raise awareness about the importance of firearm safe storage. This inaugural event would take place the week of June 4-10, 2023, with a kick-off event to be held at the Governor's Mansion on June 5, 2023. The invitation was accepted.
 - The six featured cities included in the Week of Action were Durham, Raleigh, Greenville, Greensboro, Asheville and Charlotte.

Challenges

- According to the NC Child Fatality Task Force, firearms (homicides and suicides) are the leading injury-related cause of death in children and youth in North Carolina. Eighty-two percent of adolescent suicides by firearm involve a gun belonging to a family member.
- More than 20 percent of youth car break-ins involve guns. In Durham, 62 percent of the approximately 185-gun thefts from cars in 2022, were from unlocked cars.
- The NC S.A.F.E. Week of Action event was a success. However, time constraints made it difficult for all DCo FIPP partners to have agency/organization leadership available to participate in the Media Advisory during the Gun Lock Giveaway, on June 6, 2023.

Implication(s):

- **Outcomes**

- DCoDPH and the FIPP have an existing relationship with the Durham DA's Office and have hosted an Annual Gun Lock Giveaway for the last 2-years. However, this was an opportunity for Public Health Director Rodney Jenkins and Durham Public Schools Board of Education Member Alexandra Valladares to join District Attorney DeBerry in addressing the media on the topics of safe firearm storage and gun violence prevention and intervention in Durham.
- This collaboration also provided DCoDPH and the FIPP the opportunity to partner with School Board Member Alexandra Valladares and LaSemilla Church to share information on NC S.A.F.E. during the Gun Violence, Public Health and Youth Community Forum held on Saturday, June 17, 2023. The FIPP and its partnering agencies were invited to table prior to the start of the forum.
- Outcomes of activities are speculative at this point. However, strategies that assure widespread adoption of evidence-based safe storage practices are shown to reduce the risk of injury and death due to firearms in the community. Awareness about the urgent need to effectively secure and prevent theft of firearms, especially from parked vehicles, should ultimately result in a decrease in access to guns by children and youth.

- **Service Delivery**

- The decision was made to pair the NC S.A.F.E. Week of Action event with the FIPP and Durham DA's Office's Annual Gun Lock Giveaway held at the Durham County Courthouse on June 6, 2023. The event was held from 9:00 am -12:00 pm.
- Representatives from DCoDPH, FIPP, the Durham DA's Office, and Schoolboard Member Alexandra Valladares filled NC S.A.F.E. drawstring bags with educational materials from the campaign and distributed bags in addition to 260 cable-style gun locks to approximately 200 community members as they entered and exited the Durham County Courthouse.
- There was also a raffle for a gun safe provided by the NC S.A.F.E Initiative. The winner picked up the gun safe from DCoDPH following the event.

- **Staffing**

- One DCoDPH Public Health Education Program Manager worked with the DCoDPH Public Information Officer and Public Health Director to schedule the media advisory and secured educational and promotional materials for the June 6, 2023 event.
- One DCoDPH Public Health Education Specialist worked with the DA's Office representatives to schedule the Annual Gun Lock Giveaway and secured gun locks for the event.
- One DCoDPH Comprehensive Suicide Prevention Program Coordinator facilitated giveaway bag assembly along with staff from DA's Office
- Two Public Health Education Specialists coordinated data collection during gun lock distribution.

- **Revenue**
 - No revenue was generated as a result of these activities.
 - Staff time and programmatic activities are supported by AA 493, which provides \$75,000 of funding to DCoDPH to implement comprehensive suicide prevention efforts between June 2023 – May 2024.

Next Steps / Mitigation Strategies

- Additional agencies have requested to collaborate with the FIPP to plan activities for NC S.A.F.E. Week of Action 2024. Meetings to plan for events throughout the month of June will begin in March 2024, using a strategic planning process to identify activities and evaluation methods.

Division/Program: Dental: UNC Adams School of Dentistry Services in Dental Clinic (Accreditation Activity 20.1- The local health department shall collaborate with community health care providers to provide personal and preventative health services.)

Program description:

- The Dental Division contracts with the UNC Adams School of Dentistry to provide pediatric dental services in the Department of Public Health Dental Clinic.

Statement of goals:

- To offer a comprehensive array of dental services to pediatric dental patients.
- To provide Dental residents and students hands-on experience in a public health setting.

Issues

- **Opportunities**
 - The Department has contracted with the UNC Adams School of Pediatric Dentistry for twelve years. The schedule for the 2023-2024 year will be as follows:
 - Tuesdays: Faculty (DDS), Pediatric Dental resident and two Dental students.
 - Wednesdays: Faculty (DDS) and Pediatric Dental resident.
 - Thursdays: Faculty member (DDS) and four Dental students.
 - Arrangement ensures the Department of Public Health Dental team has access to latest research in the field, and our patients benefit from advancements in care.
- **Challenges**
 - During their first day, students may be seeing a column of patients for the first time, so they are each scheduled two patients for the morning and afternoon sessions.
 - Division Director must ensure faculty, residents and students have completed HIPAA training within the past year and meet with them to cover confidentiality issues and HIPAA requirements for contractors.
 - Arranging for access to Epic Wisdom, to make certain that the combo sub-template is assigned for incoming resident or faculty.

Implication(s)

- **Outcomes**

- The current schedule will allow the clinic to see up to 40 additional patients each month, allowing the Division the chance to work on its wait list.
- Residents and students gain experience working within the Public Health setting.

Service delivery

- **Staffing-** Dental Division provides auxiliary staff to work with UNC SOD faculty, residents, and students. The Division employs two PH Hygienists that work in the clinic.
- **Revenue** – Dependent on coverage type (Medicaid or self-pay).
- **Other** –N/A

Next Steps / Mitigation Strategies

The Dental Division and UNC School of Dentistry continue to explore options to work together, and this could lead to additional assignments to clinic and/or on the Tooth Ferry.

Division / Program: Nutrition/Minority Diabetes Prevention Program Granted Continued Recognition Status for Centers for Disease Control National Diabetes Prevention Program (Accreditation Activity 10.2 - The local health department shall carry out or assist other agencies in the development, implementation and evaluation of health promotion/disease prevention programs and educational materials targeted to groups identified as at-risk in the community health assessment.)

Program description

- The National Diabetes Prevention Program—or National DPP—was created in 2010 to address the increasing burden of prediabetes and type 2 diabetes in the United States. This national effort created partnerships between public and private organizations to offer evidence-based, cost-effective interventions that help prevent type 2 diabetes in communities across the United States.
- To ensure high quality, CDC recognizes lifestyle change programs that meet certain standards and show they can achieve results. These standards include following an approved curriculum, facilitation by a trained lifestyle coach, and submitting data every 6 months to show that the program is having an impact (e.g., participant weight loss, reduction in hemoglobin A1C levels, monthly physical activity rates etc.).
- In January 2023 DCoDPH received Full-Plus Recognition status having successfully facilitated the program for more than 5 years.

Statement of goals

- To provide evidence-based diabetes prevention program services to Durham residents with a focus on minority, Black and Latino populations.
- To continue to meet all required standards to maintain CDC National DPP recognition status.

- To continue to meet all requirements of the MOU and maintain grant funding to support the incentives and activities used to achieve positive outcomes for participants.

Issues

- **Opportunities**
 - The program is offered in English and Spanish and gives an opportunity to reach at least 20-30 participants a year when two full sessions are being administered.
- **Challenges**
 - This is a year long program that has an intensive phase consisting of weekly sessions for the first four months, twice a month for the next two months and then monthly for the remaining 6 months so it can be a lot to commit to as most of our participants are also employed.
 - Finding a location that is available for late evening classes that also has close parking and flexibility in the time as most classes are held from 6-7:30pm and wrap up around 8pm after processing with participants and cleaning up.

Implication(s)

- **Outcomes**
 - Two MDPP programs were started in Oct 2022 and participants will graduate in October 2023. One program was offered in English (6 participants) and the other in Spanish (10 participants).
 - The data submitted to CDC was for the Spanish program and as of mid-August 2023 this was reviewed and resulted in DCoDPH meeting the 6-month review goals for the program and maintaining Full-Plus status. Participants are also showing weight loss and positive changes as they continue in the program.
- **Service delivery**
 - The DCoDPH MDPP program is listed in the National DPP database as an in-person delivery model and historically classes have been provided in-person. The CDC approved virtual classes during COVID and will determine by the end of the year if virtual options can continue.
 - Most of the referrals for the MDPP class series are from Lincoln Community Health Center. Additional recruitment efforts are made through attending community events, UNC-Student U, flyers distributed to churches and local businesses, and networking with other community programs.
 - The size of the classes is intentionally low in number (e.g., 10-15 participants per class) to allow for participant interactions, support, etc.
 - Participants receive incentives throughout the year to support their lifestyle changes. Incentives include measuring cups, portion plates, food scales, pedometers, exercise mats, etc.
 - Grocery store tours, nutritionist and other presentations occur to promote healthy lifestyles.
- **Staffing**
 - DCoDPH has three staff who are MDPP trained lifestyle coaches including one Health Education Specialist (who backs-up the English Program as needed) and two Community Health Workers with one serving as the primary coach for English and the other for Spanish.

- **Revenue**
 - MDPP Participants pay a five-dollar fee at the beginning of the class series.

Next Steps / Mitigation Strategies

- Continue provision of services. We are looking at one in-person Spanish program to start with an intro meeting September 28, 2023 and possibly another program online if approved. We are continuing to assess and recruit for English and Spanish participants.
- Keep all required data and submit per CDC deadlines to continue CDC recognition status.
- Ensure that grant funds are used appropriately and activities of the MOU are met so that this program continues to be awarded grant funding.
- This year, we were approved to use some of the grant funds to support Lunch and Learn Health and Wellness events and we are looking at ways to use existing DCoDPH and community partners to facilitate these events and offer more understanding of how to prevent or maintain chronic conditions to the residents of Durham.