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23



DURHAM COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH

Annual Report

FISCAL YEAR 2022-2023

July 1, 2022 - June 30, 2023



Public Health

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Leadership Team

Public Health Director

ROD JENKINS

Deputy Director

KRISTEN PATTERSON, MHA

Deputy Director

LIZ STEVENS, MPH, RN, CPHN, SANE

Health Education Director

LINDSEY BICKERS BOCK, MPH

Nutrition Director

RACHAEL ELLEDGE, MS, RD

Finance Director

MICAH GUINDON, MPA

Medical & Laboratory Director

JEFFREY JENKS, MD, MPH

Population Health Director

MARISSA MORTIBOY, MPH

Allied Health Director

JOSEE PAUL, C(ASCP), MLKS(AMT), LSSBB

Nursing and Community Health Director

MALKIA RAYNER, BSN, RN

Information Technology Director

MARCIA RICHARDSON, MPA, CGCIO

Environmental Health Director

J. CHRISTOPHER SALTER, MD, MPH

Board of Health

Chairman, Dentist Position

ROGER MCDUGAL, DDS, MS

Vice Chair, Pharmacist Position

GENE RHEA, MHA, PHARM D

Commissioner

NIDA ALLAM

Medical Director

MARY BRAITHWAITE, MD

Public Member

JOSHUA BROWN, BS

Optometrist Position

DARRYL GLOVER, OD

Public Member Position

ANTHONY GREGORIO, MBA

Public Member Position

ROSEMARY JACKSON, MD

Veterinarian Position

JAMES M. MILLER, DVM

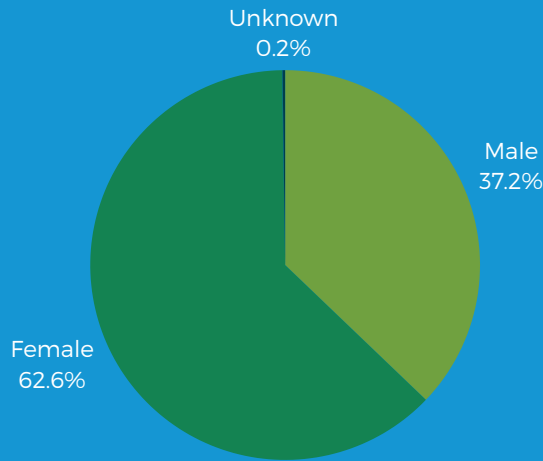
Nurse Position

VICTORIA ORTO, DNP, RN, NEA-BC

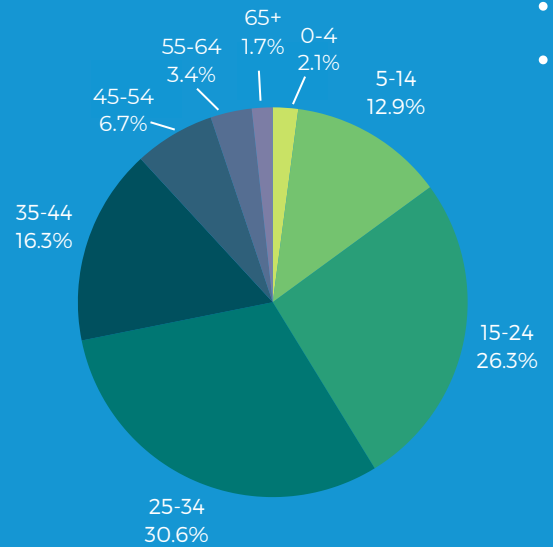
Who We Serve

Total: 11,412

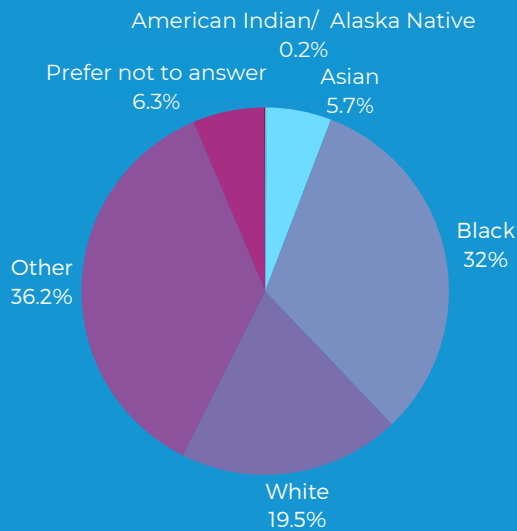
Gender



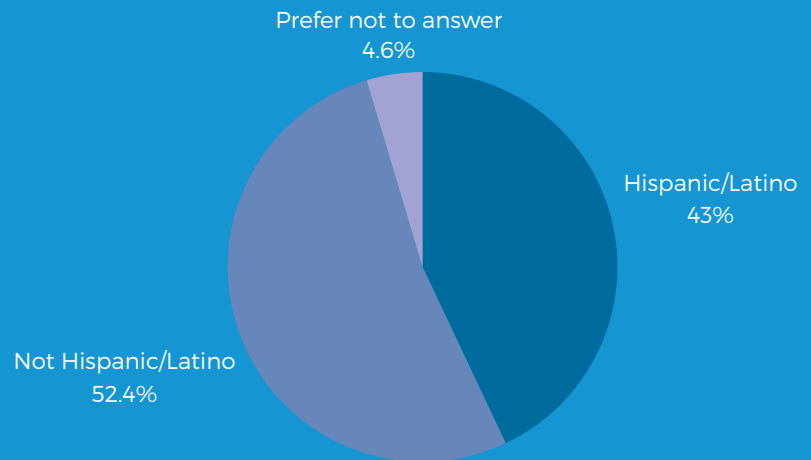
Age



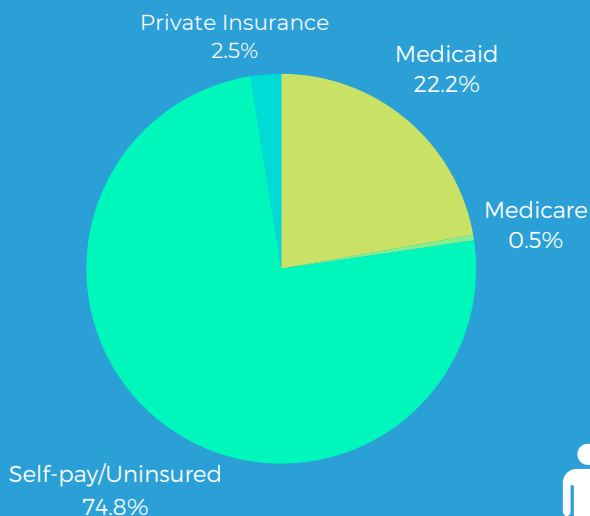
Race



Ethnicity

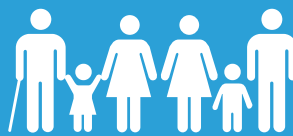
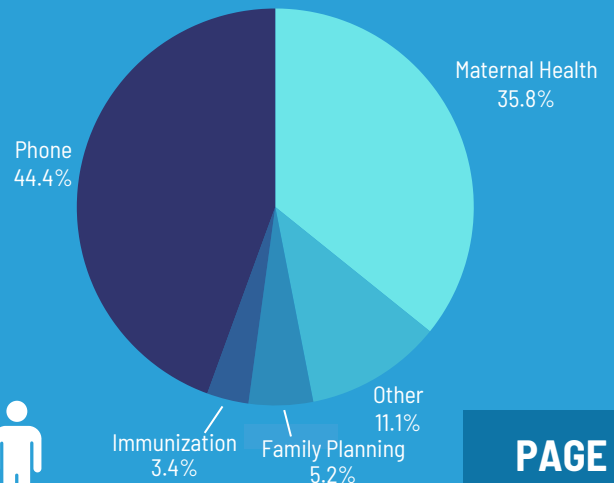


Payment Method



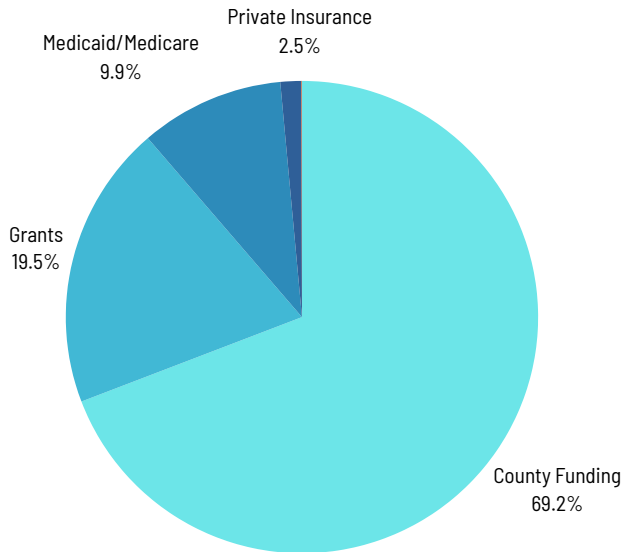
Translation Requests

Total Requests: 17,110



Financials

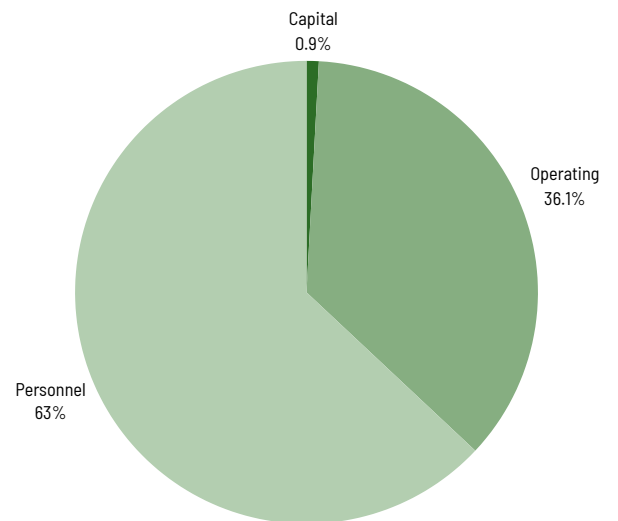
Funding Sources



Funding Source	Amount
County Funding	\$24,765,377
Grants	\$6,981,028
Medicaid/Medicare	\$3,526,677
Fees for Service	\$511,518
Private Insurance	\$13,607
Donations & Other	\$53
Intergovernmental	(\$1,809)
Grand Total	\$31,761,068

Expenses

Expense Type	Amount
Personnel	\$22,554,253
Operating	\$12,937,453
Capital	\$304,745
Grand Total	\$35,796,451



DEPARTMENT HIGHLIGHTS

REACCREDITATION

On May 19, 2023, the Durham County Department of Public Health was awarded Reaccreditation with Honors.



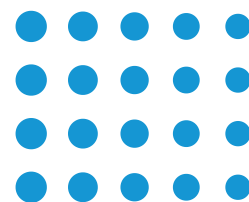
The process of accreditation includes three major components – a self-assessment completed by the agency; a site visit by a multidisciplinary team of peers to review performance standards; and determination of accreditation status by an independent Accreditation Board comprised of state and local public health officials, Board of Health members, County Commissioners, and at-large members. On May 19, 2023, the Durham County Department of Public Health (DCoDPH) received the highest designation of “Reaccredited with Honors,” having met all 147 required activities.

The Site Visit Team also identified and commended the Department for several best practices, including the Handling Instructions from its After Action Report Format; collaborative efforts to develop evidenced-based interventions to address priorities within the Community Health Assessment for identified populations at risk, specifically mentioning our Durham’s Innovative Nutrition Education (DINE) program, Complete Streets and Streetscape design initiative, Bull City Strong, and the Partnership for Healthy Durham; the Department’s agreement with Lincoln Community Health Center to collaborate with community health care providers; and the “depth of experience and knowledge” of the Board of Health membership.

STRATEGIC PLAN

Led by our Population Health division, DCoDPH developed and introduced a new strategic plan in June 2023 to clearly define our role in addressing health challenges county residents face. In addition, the plan seeks to identify and address areas of improvement to optimize the programs and services we provide. With input from DCoDPH staff, leadership, the Board of Health, and stakeholders, the agency’s plan priorities areas include community engagement, workforce development, quality improvement and advancing health and racial equity.

ALLIED HEALTH



Our Allied Health division includes our in-house laboratory and pharmacy. Our **laboratory** provides testing for patients in our clinic, at community outreach events, and in coordination with our community partners. Our **pharmacy** provides medications prescribed to patients within our clinics and offers free sterile syringes and naloxone kits (Narcan) as part of our ongoing efforts to promote sexual health and to help combat the opioid epidemic. Naloxone kits are available for free pickup by individuals or for distribution by community organizations. The pharmacy also leads our Safe Syringe Program, through which Durham residents may visit our pharmacy to confidentially receive free syringe kits and to safely dispose of used needles. Participants may also receive free HIV and Hepatitis C testing as well as mental health and substance use services.

LABORATORY



27,645

total tests performed
in-house

7,200

total syphilis tests
performed

23,644

total STI tests
performed

14,798

prescriptions filled
with 100% accuracy

975

naloxone kits
provided

220 lbs

old medications
disposed

PHARMACY

17,694

used needles returned

214

total SSP participants

775

syringes dispensed

96

sharps containers dispensed

314

fentanyl strips provided

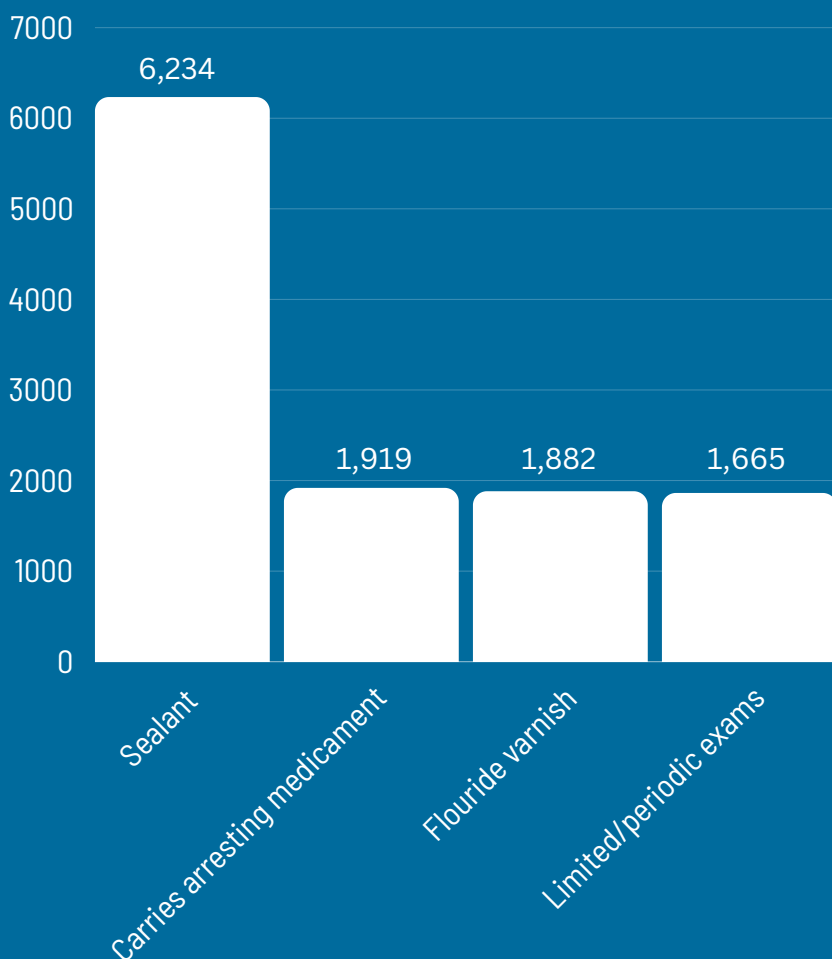


DENTAL

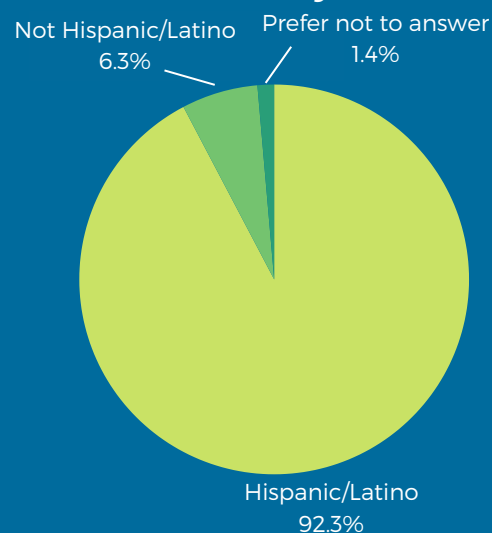
Our dental clinic serves **children from their first tooth through their twenty-first birthday, as well as pregnant people of all ages**. Services provided to children by our dental clinic help establish healthy dental habits and prevent or treat dental problems, setting up children for a lifetime of good oral hygiene and supporting the health of pregnant people and their babies.

This year, the division received **a grant through the Delta Dental Foundation** for the *Emerging Smiles Dental Assistance Program*, which will help fund specialized dental care for patients, including root canals, surgical extractions, and more. During the year the Dental Division also completed the **Durham Dental Home** grant with the University of North Carolina School of Dentistry, funded by the Duke Endowment. This grant helped the team improve operational procedures for its mobile dental unit, **the Tooth Ferry**. This will allow the Division to bring the Tooth Ferry to Durham Public Schools during the 2023-2024 school year. The Tooth Ferry also moved to its permanent site, on Leesville Road, and is undergoing work to ensure connectivity while visiting community sites.

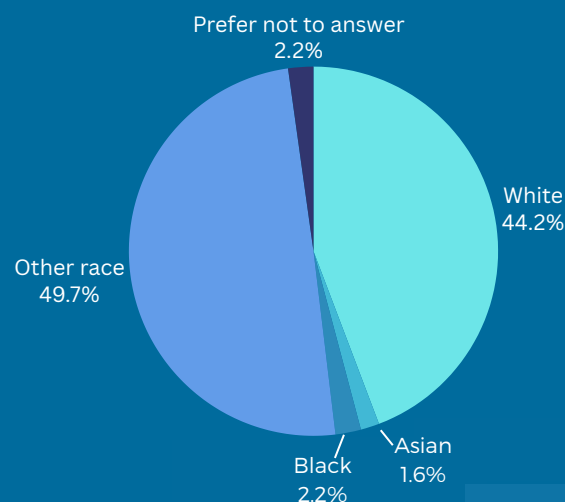
Top Procedures



Ethnicity



Race



DENTAL



A child smiles after receiving dental treatment during Give Kids a Smile 2023.



Dr. Chitrakala Jagadeesan

Special Events

On February 23, 2023 our dental clinic partnered with the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill Adams School of Dentistry for Give Kids A Smile, an annual event to provide free dental services to Durham's children. Throughout the day, the clinic treated 33 children, offering cleaning and exams, as well as sealants, fillings, extractions, and crowns.

On April 15, 2023, our dental clinic participated in a Women's Health Awareness Day at North Carolina Central University. The purpose of the event was to raise awareness of health issues affecting women in the community and to provide resources and services. Our dental health team provided free dental screenings to women attending the event and were able to serve 41 women throughout the event.

ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH



ONSITE WATER PROTECTION

The Environmental Health Onsite Water Protection Section ensures the safety of Durham's private wells, septic systems, and public pools. This year, this section obtained a new ground penetrating radar unit to facilitate more accurate location and diagnosis of malfunctioning systems. Additionally, the wastewater monitoring program developed and implemented a new geographic information system (GIS) based tool to facilitate greater efficiency for monitoring visits by geolocating existing systems into a geodatabase that is accessible by iPhone.

FY 2023			
Performance Indicators	Projected	Total FY 23	3 Year Avg FY 20-22
Onsite Water Protection Section			
Swimming Pool Insp./Visits	490	449	462
Well Program Evals/Visits	200	241	215
Onsite Program Evals/Visits	1000	773	1045
Water samples	150	99	99

GENERAL INSPECTIONS

3,364 Inspections of food, lodging, institutions, childcare, & tattoo facilities, **159** new traditional permits issued, **227** plan reviews completed, **98** pre-opening construction visits, **26** lead investigations, **8** clearance site visits, **6** annual monitoring visits

PREPAREDNESS

There were many noteworthy preparedness activities for DCoDPH's Preparedness Program in FY22-23. One of the most important activities was completing the periodic preparedness program review that is administered by NC Public Health Preparedness and Response (PHP&R). This review was conducted to determine compliance with the PHP&R Agreement Addendum 514 for 2019-2022. We passed this review with no issues noted. We were also able to participate in Wake County's Community Reception Center exercise. This exercise simulated a radiation release and the corresponding need for responders to screen people and service animals for radioactive contamination, provide first aid services and anti-radiation medications to those affected, and to inform the public of steps they can take to stay safe.

Other accomplishments included:

- Assisting in the planning and execution of a 30-person testing event for people interacting with Vice President Harris at the Durham Center for Senior Living
- Wrapped up Optum Serve vaccination and testing in Durham County, with more than 80,000 people served in total
- Activated incident management team for MPOX and acted as planning section for this response
- Created a new All Hazards Plan for DCoDPH, which is now being used by PHP&R's plan update committee
- Presented information at both the NACCHO Preparedness Summit and the PHP&R Annual Symposium

Full-Scale Shelter Training Exercise

In March 2023, our Emergency Preparedness Program collaborated with Durham Emergency Management (DCEM) to design, develop, and execute a full-scale sheltering exercise. The exercise brought together DCoDPH, DCEM, Durham County General Services, the Department of Social Services, Durham Fire Department, North Carolina Public Health Preparedness and Response, and other critical partners to refresh and update our skills for opening and operating an emergency shelter here in Durham.



HEALTH EDUCATION & COMMUNITY TRANSFORMATION



The Health Education and Community Transformation Division addresses health by influencing the decisions and actions that individuals, groups, and communities make to promote health and prevent injury, disease and disability. Health Education also educates, mobilizes, assesses, and creates policy, systems, and environmental change to positively influence the health of Durham County residents. Staff members provide in-person and virtual education, screenings, and evidence-based programs to individuals, neighborhoods, faith-based organizations, and workplaces. Health Education focus areas include chronic illness prevention and self-management; HIV/STI testing and education; substance use prevention; gun safety; adverse childhood experiences; and more.



CLASSES AND WEBINARS

- Conducted **79 webinars**
- Offered employee fitness classes including step, barre, Zumba, and Pound Unplugged
- Reached **1,157 individuals** in reproductive life planning and breastfeeding support classes
- Facilitated **55 pregnancy prevention classes**, reaching **753 participants**
- Hosted **34 childbirth preparation classes**, reaching **169 participants**



COMMUNITY EVENTS AND OUTREACH

- Distributed **1,301 gun locks** in the community or to community partners
- Hosted **8 Men's Health Walks**, reaching **224 participants**
- Hosted **12 faith-based events**, reaching **189 participants**
- Hosted **10 suicide prevention events**, reaching **184 participants**
- Conducted **1,443 HIV tests** in the community or jail testing program
- Distributed **83,750 condoms** in the community
- Hosted **10 lead screening events**, completing **70 lead tests**



POLICY AND TRAINING

- Durham County Board of Health signed a resolution asking the state to raise the minimum age of tobacco purchase to 21, implement tobacco retailer licensing, and remove local preemption
- **270 people** trained in Trauma-Informed Care
- More than **200 staff** trained on supporting LGBTQ+ community health
- **150 staff and community partners** attended Racial Equity Institute presentations

HEALTH EDUCATION & COMMUNITY TRANSFORMATION

COMMUNITY LINKAGES TO CARE FOR OVERDOSE PREVENTION & RESPONSE

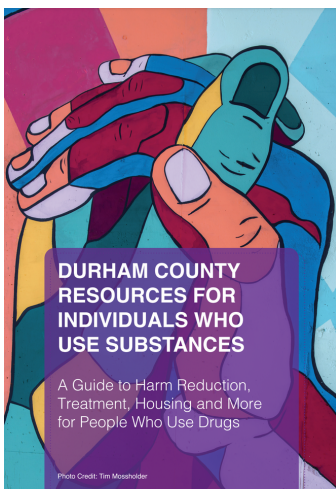
The **Community Linkages to Care (CLC)** program aims to connect Durham County residents to treatment and support for substance use or addiction. Support includes harm reduction, housing, food, and jobs. The program focuses on people who are at risk for an opioid overdose, with a goal of reducing overdose hospital visits and deaths in Durham County. This fiscal year, the Board of County Commissioners **voted to award \$400,000 of National Opioid Settlements funding to the CLC program for the next fiscal year**. This funding will be used to expand the program.

Peer Support Specialists (PSS) are the heart of the CLC program. PSS are people living in recovery with substance use disorder or mental illness. They receive special training to give support to others. PSS provide the following services, free of charge:

- Connections to treatment and care
- Take-home naloxone kits to reverse overdoses
- Links to harm reduction, housing, food, and job resources
- Car rides or bus passes to services
- Help developing coping skills and avoiding triggers
- Help developing a network of support from family, friends, and others
- Help preparing for recovery meetings
- Materials for creating a Wellness Recovery Action Plan
- Support, hope, and understanding

This fiscal year, the Board of County Commissioners voted to award \$400,000 of National Opioid Settlements funding to the CLC program for the next fiscal year.

CLC Program Highlights as of the end of FY2023



- **407 people** with substance use disorder received assistance and resources from a CLC Peer Support Specialist
- **2,233 total contacts** made with all program participants combined
- **4,623 English copies** and **1,100 Spanish copies** of our resource guide, "Durham County Resources for Individuals Who Use Substances," distributed in the community
- Of 46 participants who completed a survey after 3 months in the program:
 - **72%** were not using any form of opioids
 - **65%** were not using other substances
 - **74%** were taking medication-assisted treatment

HEALTH EDUCATION & COMMUNITY TRANSFORMATION

BULL CITY STRONG



BCS Team Members (left to right) Michele Easterling, Rod Jenkins, Liz Stevens, Lindsey Bickers Bock, Edeia Lynch, Kristen Patterson, Jaeson Smith, and Nicole Williams

Bull City Strong (BCS) is a community-based partnership funded by the US Department of Health and Human Services Office of Minority Health to improve health literacy in Durham to further an equitable community response to COVID-19. BCS aims to address the increased risk of contracting, being hospitalized, and dying from COVID-19 among historically marginalized populations in Durham County. BCS also aims to support Community Health Workers to promote changes in the healthcare delivery system that

improve health information, communication, informed decision making, and access to health services. Partners include LATIN-19, Project Access of Durham County, North Carolina Central University, Pillar Consulting, and the African American COVID Taskforce.



BCS team member Edeia Lynch and a community member



BULL CITY STRONG



Durham County Communications Director Deborah Craig-Ray and BCS program manager Jaeson Smith

Conducted **3 community health** literacy cohorts. Trained **42 community leaders**, who reached **6,306 Durham residents** in English or Spanish.

Trained **61 youth** (ages 10-18) through Not A Host™ Junior Ambassador STEM and Media Engagement Training program on COVID-19, health literacy, and health communication.

Completed **4 focus groups** in Korean, Haitian Creole, Arabic, and Mandarin to better provide culturally and linguistically appropriate health services.

Participated in **19 community events**, provided **1,281 COVID-19 tests**, administered **198 vaccines**, and distributed health information to **6,813 people**.

Launched our native content development initiative, Say Something Strong, distributing **4 mini-grants** to share stories of community health and resilience in Durham during COVID-19.

Partnered with **18 private or community-based organizations**.

NURSING



CHILD HEALTH

Our Child Health program consists of our School Health nurses, serving students in Durham Public Schools (DPS); Triple P, providing support to parents; and Care Management for At Risk Children, which specializes in early childhood care management for families of kids age 5 or under who have special healthcare needs or have been exposed to toxic stress. Read below for some of this year's program highlights!

School Health Program Highlights



Our School Health Team

- All school nurses trained in Youth Mental Health First Aid
- Collaborated with Duke School of Nursing students to host a health fair at four elementary school sites
- Supported & facilitated Durham Tech Project SIGHT program in hosting vision events at 8 school sites. which resulted in providing glasses to 225 students
- Participated in the Durham Public Schools School Health Advisory Committee

32,000

DPS students

46

DPS schools served by school nurses

6,808

Encounters with students by school nurses

250

Educational classes provided to students

Triple P Program Highlights

The Durham County Positive Parenting Program (Triple P) manages community and local government partnerships in a ten-county service area to build networks of support for parents and caregivers. Strategies focus on practical skills for parents to effectively meet their children's developmental and emotional needs while building parental confidence.

Outcomes aim to build healthy parent and child relationships to help mitigate the impact of toxic stressors including poverty, violence, and racism.

156

Total caregivers

295

Kids affected

6.3/7

Caregiver satisfaction

CMARC Program Highlights

The Care Management for At Risk Children Program (CMARC) specializes in early childhood care management for families of children ages 0-5 who meet one or more criteria including children with special health care needs, NICU graduates, children in foster care, and children that are exposed to toxic stress (i.e. history of abuse/neglect, exposure to substance abuse, and more). Care managers work closely with the child's family, medical home, and prepaid health plan to ensure coordinated, effective and unduplicated care. **Our CMARC staff services exceed benchmark assessments and standards intended to strengthen the accountability for services provided to Medicaid beneficiaries.**

NURSING

WOMEN'S HEALTH

FAMILY PLANNING

This program offers reproductive health and family planning services at little or no cost to people who are eligible.

2,511

Patients served

BREAST AND CERVICAL CANCER PREVENTION PROGRAM

This program provides free breast and cervical cancer screenings to low-income and uninsured or underinsured women who have not been screened in the last year.

43

Patients served

MATERNAL HEALTH

This program offers prenatal and post-partum services at little or no cost to people who are eligible.

3,593

Patients served

CARE MANAGEMENT FOR HIGH-RISK PREGNANCIES

The Care Management for High-Risk Pregnancies Program (CMHRP) coordinates with patients with high-risk pregnancies and their prenatal care providers to ensure the best care during and after pregnancy and improve birth outcomes

11,164

Contacts with patients

COMMUNICABLE DISEASE



Our Immunization Team

Our communicable disease team includes our immunization clinic, refugee health program, tuberculosis clinic, rabies control clinic, and STI clinic. In September 2022, the STI Clinic started the PrEP Quickstart/Referral process. We have since referred and started **157 at-risk individuals** on HIV prevention medications. We also obtained a supply of generic Truvada to distribute to qualifying patients who are at risk for HIV acquisition. Our process allows us to provide a 3-month supply of HIV prevention medications to HIV negative patients who are at high risk of contracting HIV. Patients receive risk-reduction counseling and are referred to a PrEP provider for follow-up after 3 months. Our focus continues to be on marginalized groups who may not have access to PrEP but are disproportionately affected by HIV.

- **5,730** immunizations administered
- **503** refugee clients served

- **117** clients treated for latent tuberculosis
- **4,054** STI clinic visits for **2,795** patients

NUTRITION



NUTRITION CLINIC

The Nutrition Clinic provides nutrition education empowering individuals to make informed, sound health choices. In FY 2023, 2,189 nutrition contacts received service, including individual counseling sessions, diabetes self-management education, and nutrition education for groups. 97% of these clients seen for nutrition services had a positive outcome at follow-up visit.

FORMERLY INCARCERATED TRANSITIONS (FIT) PROGRAM

The FIT program provides access to primary health care and Medication Assisted Treatment (MAT) via a partnership with UNC (paying the cost of care) and Lincoln Community Health Center (providing care at a sliding scale fee). Community health workers also refer clients to other community partners for housing, food access, employment assistance, and more to support a full transition back to the community. The goal is to intake and connect at least 50 clients each year. In FY2023, we temporarily decreased the accepted referrals due to vacancies within the program. During this time, community partners referred cases that had severe needs and no alternative resources. Even with this period of temporarily decreasing referrals, we maintained 62 active cases, 29 of which were new referrals connected to primary health care or MAT for substance abuse via Lincoln Community Health.

MINORITY DIABETES PREVENTION PROGRAM (MDPP)

MDPP provides 24 educational training sessions for preventing Type 2 Diabetes over the course of one year. Funding is provided via a grant from the state to support supplemental resources and tools to help educate participants. This fiscal year we were able to start one English and one Spanish group for a total of 16 participants. In addition to class educational sessions, we have also been able to incorporate speakers including community members who are living with diabetes and doctors who specialize in diabetes care, and we host grocery store tours to show participants how to shop for healthy choices and still enjoy some of the foods they love. In January 2023, MDPP for DCoDPH received CDC Full Plus Recognition for effectively administering this lifestyle change program for at least 5 years.

CHRONIC CARE INITIATIVE (CCI)

The CCI program supports referrals for citizens who are living with chronic illnesses. Participants are assigned a community health worker who works with them on navigating the healthcare system, providing support in an array of areas such as linkage to a primary care provider or a dietitian, resources to support coverage of care and prescriptions, assisting in understanding how to work some basic medical equipment, and referrals to other community agencies. These trained workers also offer self-management educational classes in conjunction with health education staff. With this partnership, CCI was able to facilitate two Spanish Diabetes Self-Management programs, lasting six weeks each, for a total of 20 participants.

NUTRITION



Durham's Innovative Nutrition Education (DINE)



Preschoolers at Kiddie Kollege made watermelon cut out snacks with DINE nutritionist Ileana Vink.

DINE is an award-winning community-based nutrition education program, providing general nutrition education, cooking classes, workshops, and more at locations throughout Durham. These locations include schools, summer camps, community centers, homeless shelters, Durham Housing Authority sites, and many more. DINE also provides technical assistance to Durham farmers' markets, helping support the Double Bucks program, which offers a dollar-for-dollar match to families enrolled in SNAP, WIC, and those receiving housing vouchers who shop at the markets. This year, our DINE program was honored with the GlaxoSmithKline Foundation Child Health Recognition Award, honoring programs that improve the lives of North Carolina's children. DINE also received an Ann Wolfe grant to improve outdoor learning environments in childcare centers. The grant has been used to create outdoor learning toolkits that include curriculum materials, play equipment, gardening equipment, and materials to increase comfort of children and teachers in the outdoors.

DINE results by
the numbers:

8,427

School-aged children
reached with nutrition
education

81%

Parents completing a year-end
survey who indicated their
child is more willing to eat
healthy foods after receiving
DINE nutrition classes

53%

Childcare facilities that made at
least 3 policy, systems, &
environmental changes to
improve children's nutritional &
physical activity environments

776

Adults reached with
nutrition education

80%

Adults who said they would
make a behavioral change
to improve their nutrition

76%

DINE newsletter readers
who said they changed
how they eat or cook

339

Households that shopped at a
Durham farmers' market using
Double Bucks

POPULATION HEALTH



Population Health Division members. Back row, left to right: Bria Miller, Gabi Paterson, and Marissa Mortiboy. Front row, left to right: John-Paul Zitta, Kristen Patterson, Antrel Branch, Rochelle Talley, Krista Kicsak, and Savannah Carrico

Our Population Health Division focuses on community engagement, data, quality improvement, workforce development, strategic planning, accreditation and policy development. The division use many strategies to improve health outcomes of Durham County residents, including community-centered approaches like our Community Health Assessment & Partnership for a Healthy Durham; data sharing like our COVID-19 data dashboard; internal initiatives like developing the DCoDPH strategic plan and leading our accreditation efforts; and much more.

Partnership for a Healthy Durham

Our Population Health division includes our Partnership for a Healthy Durham, a collaboration between DCoDPH and local organizations and community members working toward improving the health and well-being of Durham's residents. In 2023, the Partnership for a Healthy Durham and DCoDPH, in partnership with Duke Health, earned a \$750,000 grant from The Duke Endowment's Healthy People Healthy Carolinas (HPHC) initiative. These funds will support the work of the Partnership's Physical Activity, Nutrition, and Food Access (PANFA) committee to put racial equity principles into action, build authentic community connection with avenues for paid leadership roles, expand language interpretation access, and implement initiatives built by and for those most impacted by chronic illnesses. With this award, provided across five years, the Partnership has joined a coalition of 24 other organizations and agencies across North Carolina and HPHC initiative to address chronic health issues.



PANFA Committee members Kat Kombs and Rita Bunnag speak to a community member at a community event.

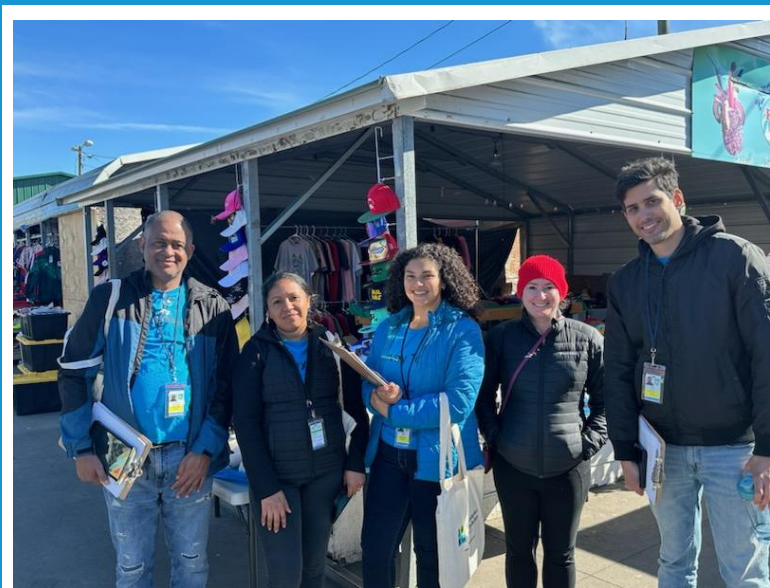
Strategic Plan

Population Health led the process for a new strategic plan in 2022 to clearly define DCoDPH's role in addressing health challenges county residents face. In addition, the plan seeks to identify and address areas of improvement to optimize the programs and services we provide. With input from DCoDPH staff, leadership, and stakeholders, the agency's plan priorities areas include community engagement, workforce development, quality improvement and advancing health and racial equity.

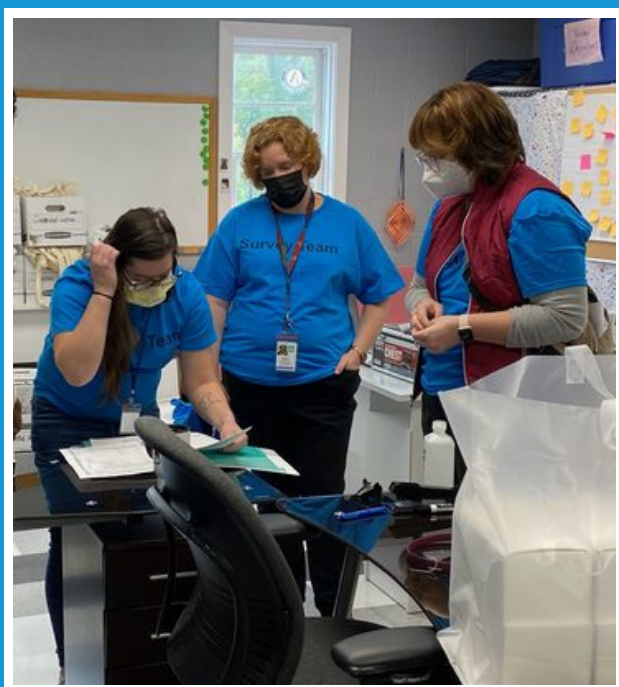
POPULATION HEALTH

Community Health Assessment

As part of the 2023 Community Health Assessment process, DCoDPH, the Partnership for a Healthy Durham, and Duke Health conducted community health surveys. This information is used by stakeholders, partners, community members, and elected officials to identify, address, and improve key health issues of the community. Survey results are available online at www.healthydurham.org and will be available in the 2023 Durham County Community Health Assessment.



DCoDPH staff Savannah Carrico and contractors Edwin Perez Salcedo, Ena Esquivel, Tatiana Aguilar and Osney Lorenzo Lopez, collect Comunidad Latina surveys at the Durham Green Flea Market.



DCoDPH staff Savannah Carrico and Heather Trimarchi, along with a community volunteer, prepare for Community Health Assessment surveys in the community.

Community Health Assessment highlights:

- DCoDPH and partners completed 205 door-to-door 2023 county-wide Durham County Community Health Assessment surveys between September and November 2023.
- DCoDPH worked with bilingual and Spanish-speaking contractors who visited locations throughout the community including the Durham Green Flea Market, Immaculate Conception Catholic Church, El Centro Hispano events, La Semilla, and a LATIN-19 COVID-19 vaccination event, completing 176 surveys between February and April 2023.

COVID-19 & MPOX RESPONSE



COVID-19

VACCINES: As the COVID-19 pandemic continued, our team carried on its thorough response to the slow the spread in our community. With the authorization of vaccines for children under age 5 in June 2022, this fiscal year marked the first year we were able to vaccinate all people age 6 months and older. DCoDPH became **one of the only local providers able to provide no-cost walk-in vaccination vaccinations for children under under age 5**. Throughout the fiscal year, we were able to provide **857 total COVID-19 vaccinations** to the community.

TESTING: This year, we also **began providing free take-home COVID-19 tests from our building**. These tests were available to pick up on the outside of our building or to take home from clinics after patient visits. In this fiscal year, we provided **108,363 free tests to the community**.

DATA: The Durham County Department of Public Health COVID-19 dashboard was mainstay during the pandemic between March 2020 and May 2023. The dashboard garnered **over 1.2 million views** during that time, providing case counts, hospitalizations data, vaccination trends, and more. The dashboard was designed to aid our community in data driven decision-making. As the COVID pandemic moved from the emergency phase, DCoDPH sunset the dashboard in early April 2023.

MPOX

In July 2022, the World Health Organization (WHO) declared monkeypox a “public health emergency of international concern” (the WHO and CDC later adopted the term mpox to replace the term monkeypox in November 2022). In August 2022, the Jynneos vaccine was authorized for use to prevent the virus. At that time, DCoDPH was quickly able to establish operations to provide the vaccine to the community at no cost, helping to slow the spread in Durham and beyond. By the end of the fiscal year, **we provided nearly 1,400 mpox vaccines to the community**.

DIRECTOR RETIREMENTS

Michele Easterling

Michele Easterling began her tenure with DCoDPH on May 7, 1990 as a Clinical Nutritionist and advanced to the Nutrition clinical supervisor in 1998. In this role, she drastically improved the billing system for the nutrition clinic, receiving employee of the quarter for this work in June 2010. She was also a constant advocate for the nutrition clinic and was promoted to Nutrition Director in 2011. During her 12-year tenure as Nutrition Director, she grew the division from a team of 16 to a team of 29 and expanded the scope of the team to include dietitians, social workers, community health workers, and administrative assistants. Michele was a leader in Durham and in North Carolina in bringing the importance of community health workers to the forefront in public health. Her role was vital in the creation of both the Formerly Incarcerated Transition (FIT) Program and Chronic Care Initiative (CCI) in Durham County. In 2023, Michele was elected to serve on the Advisory Board for Durham County Cooperative Extension. She continues to serve in this role. Michele's colleagues will remember her best for the way she always made time for each of her staff. She met each person where they were and helped them grow personally and professionally. Michele Easterling is a great leader in public health nutrition and her impact will be felt in Durham County for years to come.



Michele Easterling

Hattie Wood



Hattie Wood and Health Director Rod Jenkins

Hattie Wood joined the staff of DCoDPH in 1997 as a Public Health Nurse I in the Tuberculosis (TB) Control Program, following five years at Duke University Medical Center in inpatient care and later outpatient care in the OB/GYN Department of the Private Diagnostic Clinic. Throughout her first 15 years at DCoDPH, she worked in several positions, including Public Health Nurse III/TB Team Leader and Public Health Nursing Supervisor II/Communicable Disease Program Manager, before assuming the role of Director of Community Health and Nursing in 2012. As director, Hattie led the largest division in the department, with programs including school health, maternal health, family planning, communicable disease control, and more. Hattie was committed to providing

high-quality and equitable care for all patients, and her contributions to the healthcare of Durham's residents will not be forgotten.



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