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## Survey Purpose, Methods, Data Collection, and Results of the 2023 Durham County Comunidad Latina Community Health Assessment survey

Durham County Department of Public Health (DCoDPH), the Partnership for a Healthy Durham, and Duke Health extends their gratitude to the Hispanic and Latino residents of Durham County for participating in the Comunidad Latina survey in addition to the many local organizations that allowed DCoDPH staff to attend their events. These partners include La Semilla, El Centro, Durham Green Flea Market, the Immaculate Conception Catholic Church, the Venezuelan Cultural Association of North Carolina, and LATIN-19. The data collected in this survey helps provide information to public health leadership to make important decisions about the health and well-being of Durham County residents that identify as Hispanic or Latino. The data is also used to apply for grants that government agencies and local organizations can use to enact change in the community. By going to Hispanic and Latino centered events from February 24 – April 2 2023, DCoDPH was able to survey people of all backgrounds that identify as Hispanic or Latino. This opportunity allows DCoDPH to meet people where they are at and to see what resources are needed to better serve this community.



### Purpose of the Comunidad Latina Community Health Assessment Survey

The Durham County Community Health Assessment Comunidad Latina survey has been conducted every three years since 2013. This is a voluntary survey that DCoDPH continues conducting to ensure all voices of Durham County are being heard and represented. In previous years, volunteers have gone door-to-door to randomly selected homes in Durham County to interview residents. In 2023, due to

bilingual volunteer shortages and limited time, DCoDPH elected to hire contractors through the North Carolina Alliance of Public Health Agencies (NCAPHA) that were bilingual and therefore better suited to conduct the interviews for this survey. These contractors are all local and tied to the Durham County community in many ways, their passion and enthusiasm to reach out to the Hispanic and Latino population was very valuable and encouraged people to open up and discuss how they really felt about their community – the good and bad. Instead of going door-to-door, contractors attended Hispanic and Latino events around the county. These events included food drives, church services, flea market shoppers, and health fairs. This was advantageous for many reasons:

- Contractors were able to talk to people in their native or preferred language.
- DCoDPH was able to locate and learn more about Hispanic and Latino events through partners familiar with the community.
- One-on-one conversations were detailed and helpful and easy to communicate as opposed to filling out a paper survey.
- Meeting people at local events helped reach people that wouldn't necessarily be captured in traditional survey methods.



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## Survey Development

The 2023 Durham County Community Health Assessment Comunidad Latina survey process involved partners from El Centro, El Futuro, LATIN-19, Duke Health, and the Partnership for a Healthy Durham. Each organization reviewed the survey and added any suggestions or clarifications to make sure it was culturally appropriate and translatable into Spanish. The 2023 survey was modeled closely after the 2019 Comunidad Latina survey to maintain consistency. **Though the results are not comparable to previous surveys due to the different methodologies**, the results from the 2023 assessment provide invaluable data that can be used to benefit the Hispanic and Latino population in Durham County.

This year, an additional eight question survey regarding individual's experience with COVID-19 was added.

DCoDPH staff tested the survey in the lobby of the Durham County Department of Public Health and its COVID-19 vaccine clinic. To ensure an equitable approach, people of all backgrounds and cultures were asked to participate.

## Sampling Methods

This survey was conducted at several Hispanic and Latino events in Durham County. DCoDPH staff researched local events and organizations that could participate in survey administration. DCoDPH reached out to several organizations. While attending events, contractors approached individuals either in their cars or while walking around.

## Survey Administration

DCoDPH hired seven contractors to administer the surveys. Contractors experienced more success when they spoke Spanish. As part of the survey, incentive bags were given to participants. These incentives included a tote bag, an insulated lunch bag, COVID-19 tests, and a personal hand sanitizer as well as several flyers and brochures advertising the many resources available in Durham County.

Contractors used tablets to record surveys electronically at the beginning and end of the survey process. Other surveys were collected using paper and were later entered into Qualtrics online by the contractors. In 2023, there was an option to complete the survey online. Contractors handed out flyers that included a Quick Response (QR) code to take the survey online on the participant's own time if the person was not able to complete the survey at the event.

## Results

A total of 176 surveys were collected. This is 88% of the desired sample size of 200 which is a powerful sample. Eight surveys were collected through the online survey link. Six surveys were completed by going door-to-door in the Fall of 2022. However, due to low bilingual volunteer sign ups, the Comunidad Latina survey could not be completed using the door-to-door method during the Fall of 2022.

When the sample size was large enough, (>10 responses) data was analyzed by gender and age.

Due to the difference in sampling methods (door-to-door vs attending community events), previous Comunidad Latina survey results are not comparable to the 2023 results.



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### Access to Care

- 41.9% of survey participants reported having a lapse in health insurance or coverage within the last 12 months. Those under 50 were more likely to have a lapse in health coverage.
- 20.8% of survey participants reported having difficulty getting the healthcare they needed in the last 12 months. The most common reason was cost and not having health coverage.

### Personal Health

- 34.3% of survey participants reported they'd rate their health as fair or poor.
- The top three stressors are work, finances, and parenting/childcare.
- 49.4% of survey participants reported always or usually getting the social and/or emotional support they need.

### Discrimination

- 33.1% of survey participants reported being upset because of how they were treated based on their race/ethnicity.
- The most common types of discrimination experienced include language or English proficiency, racism, and physical appearance.

### Physical Activity

- Walking is the most common form of exercise (55.7%) followed by dancing.
- 22.2% of survey respondents reported not exercising regularly.

### Nutrition

- 29.2% of survey respondents reported cutting or skipping meals some of the time because they were worried they wouldn't have enough money to buy more.
- The main reason survey respondents reported not eating healthy was the cost of food.

### Tobacco use

- 7.1% of survey respondents reported smoking cigarettes some days.
- 43.8% of survey respondents reported not being exposed to secondhand smoke.

### Household

- 44.6% of survey respondents reported living in Durham for less than 11 years.
- 21.9% of survey respondents reported owning their home.
- Nearly half of all participants reported their health was impacted by their housing in a good way.

### Community Improvement

- The common people, places, or things that make Durham County a good place to live include the neighborhood is quiet, safe, and having good neighbors.
- The top three issues affecting quality of life include drug and alcohol abuse, violent crime, and theft.

### Emergency Preparedness

- The most common place to evacuate to is a friend or family member's home.
- 58% of survey participants reported they would leave if asked to do so.

### COVID-19 experience

- 83.2% of survey respondents reported getting at least one dose of the COVID-19 vaccine.
- 37.2% of survey respondents reported their mental health worsened since March 2020.

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