



Our Health, Our Future

Tri-County Health Improvement Plan

Accomplishments Report | 2019-2021

Message from the Director

Dear Partners,

With a focus on the health inequities and disparities in our region, many of us in the Tri-County have been working together on this journey toward health equity for our residents for decades. Healthy Tri-County (HTC), launched in 2017, is catalyzing our community's health by engaging, linking, collaborating and supporting the community of practitioners and leaders who aim to improve the health and well-being of individuals and communities.

The purpose of HTC is to bring together a multi-sector group of agencies and individuals to identify and prioritize health issues based on community health data. These insights inform population health indicators, planning, implementation and monitoring for the community health improvement process.

From June 2017 to June 2018, Healthy Tri-County developed ***Our Health, Our Future: Tri-County Health Improvement Plan (TCHIP) 2018-2023*** as a road map of key recommendations and actions the community can take to achieve optimal health. This plan was built on the quantitative and qualitative data collected in the 2016 Tri-County Community Health Needs Assessment (CHNA) conducted by Trident United Way (TUW), Roper St. Francis Healthcare (RSFH), Medical University of South Carolina (MUSC) and many Healthy Tri-County partners.

In the very same populations targeted in our plan, the impacts of COVID-19 widened the gaps in health outcomes among minority and low-income populations in 2020. It's time for us to address more intentionally the widened health equity gaps that were compounded by COVID-19.

Even in the midst of the pandemic, I am proud to present what HTC has accomplished in the past three years in this inaugural Accomplishment Report.

Thus, in 2021 and beyond, my hope is that we can continue to work together for health improvement for ALL.

Sincerely,

Renee Linyard-Gary
Director of Health
Trident United Way



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Healthy Tri-County Core Partners



Access to Care

The Access to Care subcommittee has been tasked with implementation and monitoring of the five-year plan that seeks to move the needle on access to quality health care. The community goal is to increase access to quality health care and services by closing the insurance coverage gap, building provider capacity and support reduction of transportation barriers.



Recommendations: Close insurance coverage gap, build provider capacity, and support efforts to reduce barriers to transportation.

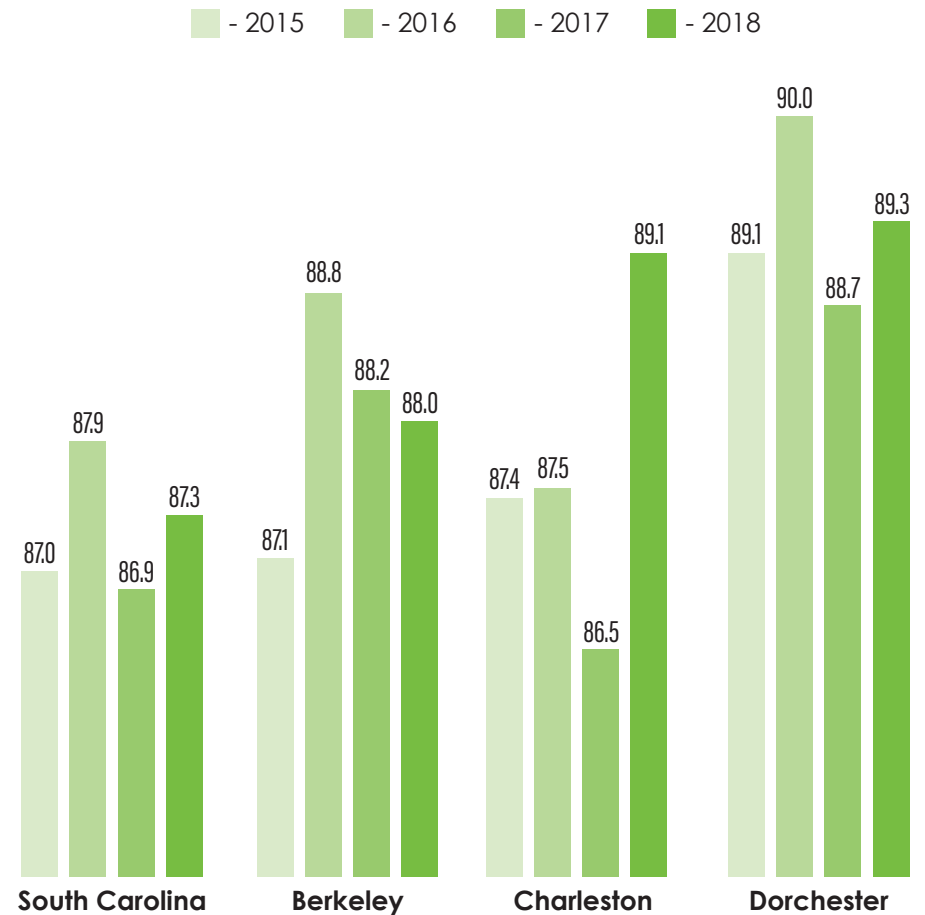
Accomplishments

- Promoted Marketplace Open Enrollment resources, provided by SC Hospital Association and HTC member organizations such as [Palmetto Project](#), within HTC Network and on HTC website. As of January 2021:
 - Medicaid enrollment grew to 1,342,107, a 7% increase since March 2020 in SC.
 - SC enrollment through Healthcare.gov grew by 16,000 to a 5-year high of 230,050.
- Launched and promoted in May 2020 Healthy Tri-County [Community Resource Hub](#), an online database of medical and social services, for providers and community members.

Opportunities

- Participate and contribute in future transportation planning meetings such as Lowcountry Rapid Transit.
- Advocate and support efforts to close the health care coverage gap in South Carolina to include extension of pregnancy-related Medicaid coverage to one-year postpartum.

Percentage of Residents with Health Insurance, Under 65 years



Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Small Area Health Insurance Estimates

Behavioral Health

The Behavioral Health subcommittee has been tasked with implementation and monitoring of the five-year plan that seeks to move the needle on mental health and substance use priorities. The Behavioral Health community goal is to increase the knowledge about behavioral health issues, services and resources and increase service utilization in the Tri-County.



Recommendation: Determine public's knowledge of behavioral health resources and reduce barriers to accessing services.

Accomplishments

- Increased participation in the Community Health Needs Assessment from nearly 1,500 surveys in 2016 to over 5,300 in 2019 for enhanced behavioral health data collection to develop an education plan for increased public awareness.
- SC Thrive offered 29 Mental Health First Aid trainings from January 2020 to April 2021 and trained 460 individuals of which 82 were from the Tri-County.
- Sponsored by Trident United Way, **Roper St. Francis Healthcare** hosted Medication Take Back event at Dream Center Clinic in September 2020.
- Hosted community events focused on mental health disparities since 2017 to include **August 2020 HTC's Virtual Conversation on Race and Health Equity: Mental Health Disparities in Communities of Color** with over 100 participants.

Opportunities

- Build a public awareness campaign of Mental Health First Aid Training provided by HTC member organizations such as **SC Thrive** to increase awareness of local resources.
- Increase survey responses in 2022 Community Health Needs Assessment to reassess public's knowledge of behavioral health resources to inform the existing behavioral health subcommittee education plan.
- Increased utilization of community health workers as referral sources for behavioral health services.



Between January 2019 to May 2021, Roper St. Francis Healthcare hosted **26 Medication Take Back events** and **collected 1,617 pounds of medication.**

Reflection from Healthy Tri-County Conversation on Race and Health Equity panel presenter:



“As African American and minority women, we have to get comfortable with being our number one priority.”

*Jaquay Washington, LPC,
LPCS (candidate)
Author/Clinical Therapist*

Clinical Preventive Services

The Clinical Preventive Services subcommittee has been tasked with implementation and monitoring of the five-year plan that seeks to move the needle specifically on immunization rates, cancer risks and diabetes. The community goal is to increase the rates at which the general population takes advantage of clinical preventive services.



Recommendation: Increasing community immunization rates across a person's lifespan.

Accomplishments

- Conducted vaccine education to increase parental knowledge and awareness through four Managed Medicaid payer plans and MUSC Pediatrics System for pediatric patient outreach.
- Hosted Tri-County "Power to Prevent" webinar with 50 participants presenting best practices and strategies to improve immunization rates in September 2020.
- Improved pneumococcal immunization screening tools for Medicare patients who are 65+ in five health agencies to include the addition of pneumococcal immunization screening to MUSC's Emergency Department.
- Advocated in 2020 to enhance the SC Sports Physical Form to include the list of adolescent vaccinations and submitted to SC High School Athletic Association in March 2021 to review for adoption.

Opportunities

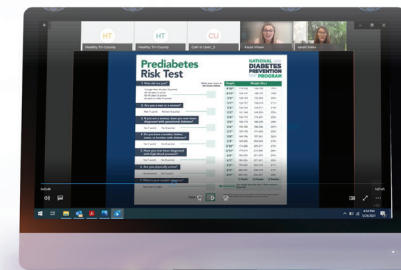
- With the other workgroups focused on immunization rates and diabetes, the Clinical Preventive Services subcommittee had limited focus on cancer screenings during the COVID-19 pandemic and will re-prioritize cancer screenings in 2022.

Recommendation: Reducing the incidence of type 2 diabetes

Accomplishments

- Secured two streams of funding in 2019 and 2020 for expansion of National Diabetes Prevention Program (NDPP) with support from SC Center for Rural and Primary Healthcare and The Duke Endowment.
- Identified a lead hub organization at [AccessHealth Tri-County Network Diabetes Prevention Project Expansion](#), through partnership with Trident United Way.
- Hosted "Engaging the Community in the National Diabetes Prevention Program" webinar in November 2020 for 38 participants of which 10 were registered nurses who were credited 2.0 contact hours of continuing education.
- Increased the pool of lifestyle coaches to 4 Master Trainers and 19 NDPP lifestyle coaches; implemented Coach Connect in April 2021.

**Healthy Tri-County:
Engaging the
Community in the
National Diabetes
Prevention Program**



Maternal, Infant and Child Health

The Maternal, Infant and Child Health subcommittee has been tasked with implementation and monitoring of the five-year plan that seeks to move the needle on the overall improvement of health for mothers and children. The community goal is to improve the overall health by improving reproductive health of families, safeguarding maternal health to lower mortality and morbidity and increasing the number of children receiving a developmental screening.



Recommendation: Support efforts to reduce unintended pregnancy, improve maternal health and increase developmental screenings.

Accomplishments

- College of Charleston Student Health Services has provided over 5,780 family planning visits and placed 570 Long-Acting Reversible Contraceptives (LARCs) since 2016.
- Completed reproductive telehealth visits, with the assistance of Community Health Workers, and with the support of 4 HTC member organizations.
- Partnered with MUSC Women's Reproductive Behavioral Health Program in late 2020 until early 2021 to conduct focus groups in local churches to inform and build public awareness of maternal mortality and morbidity for African American women.
- Collaborated with HTC member organizations since Fall 2020 to promote the use of developmental screening within four Pediatric & Family Practice provider locations in the Tri-County.



Opportunities

- The Maternal, Infant and Child Health subcommittee remains committed to support efforts to reduce unintended pregnancy and promote the community awareness of the benefits of developmental screenings. Subcommittee members are invested in the exploration and implementation of strategies to safeguard maternal health for in the Tri-County and across South Carolina.

In the News: *The Post and Courier* Commentary by Subcommittee Co-Chair



“The most important next step for us in South Carolina is to improve access to health care, not just during pregnancy and the first 60 days after childbirth but for the entire perinatal period extending the full year past childbirth while a woman is exposed to risk factors for postpartum morbidity and mortality.”

Nancy Muller, PhD, MBA
Director, Lowcountry Graduate Center
Visiting Associate Professor of Public Health,
College of Charleston

Obesity, Nutrition & Physical Activity

The Obesity, Nutrition & Physical Activity subcommittee has been tasked with implementation and monitoring of the five-year plan that seeks to move the needle on the activities to reduce obesity in the region. The community goal is to create environments that promote healthy nutrition and regular physical activity habits in the Tri-County.



Recommendations: Enhance fruit and vegetable access and provide more safe and affordable opportunities for regular physical activity.

Accomplishments

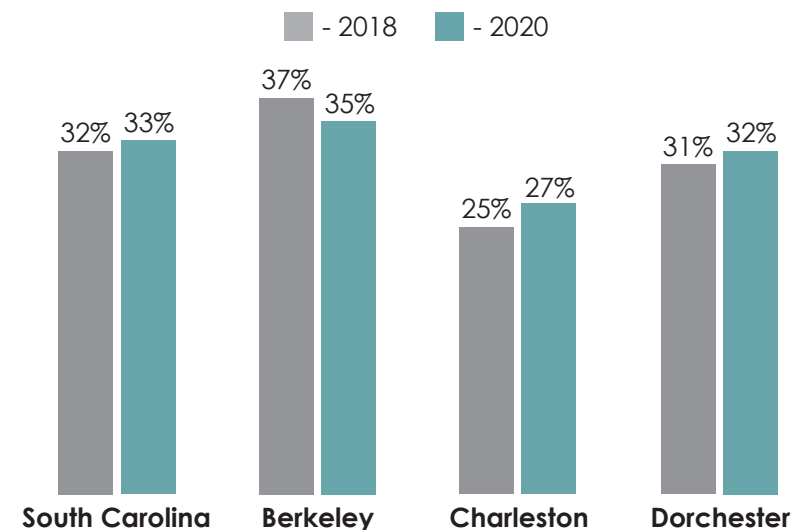
- Secured a mini-grant from BlueCross® BlueShield® of South Carolina Foundation and The Duke Endowment in November 2020 to support a statewide learning collaborative, **South Carolina Roadmap to Food Security**, that aims to engage local and statewide partners to build upon, align and accelerate current efforts to improve food security and racial equity.
- Awarded Trident United Way a three-year grant (2018-2021) for Healthy Tri-County under the Duke Endowment's **Healthy People, Healthy Carolinas initiative** that promotes behavior changes addressing important chronic health issues to improve physical health and nutrition.
- Hosted a Food Access Inforum facilitated by Lowcountry Food Bank in April 2021, with support from Trident United Way's Healthy People, Healthy Carolinas grant, for the Charleston Trident Dietetic Association (CTDA) that offered Continuing Professional Education to 18 dietitians with 5 facilitators.
- Partnered with MUSC's Boeing Center for Children's Wellness to establish Clemson Extension's "School Gardening for Lowcountry Educators" intervention at three Title I schools representing Berkeley, Charleston, and Dorchester counties in April 2021.



Opportunities

- Promote and increase breastfeeding-friendly practices in the community through a strategic partnership with agencies or advocates with existing health campaigns in the region.
- Continue to explore an Obesity, Nutrition and Physical Activity campaign-style strategies to drive action to reduce obesity in children and adults.

Comparison of % Adult Obesity 2018 vs. 2020



Source: County Health Rankings & Roadmaps

Amplifying Health Equity in the Pandemic

Healthy Tri-County (HTC), through the Tri-County Health Improvement Plan (TCHIP) Implementation Workgroup and membership, remains committed to improve the health and well-being of every person and community within the Tri-County region. In this time of the pandemic, the racial and health disparities data outlined in the tri-annual [Tri-County Health Landscape: Community Health Needs Assessment](#) report was amplified nationally by the negative health outcomes of COVID-19. Our HTC Tri-County Health Improvement Plan Workgroup and partners used both historical and real-time data, in addition to population level indicators, to be responsive to the community's needs as they developed.

MOVEMENT BUILDING Milestones

- Sponsored four HTC Rural Food Distributions in the Summer 2020 (funding support by The Duke Endowment)
- Hosted Trident United Way COVID-19 Executive Briefings featuring SC Department of Health and Environmental Control and Medical University of South Carolina
- Hosted first virtual session of a series of [Conversations on Race and Health Equity](#) on Vaccine Hesitancy and COVID-19 in February 2021.
- Launched Healthy Tri-County [Community Resource Hub](#) targeting needs of the underserved. Since May 2020 launch, there were 1,249 views on HTC website with 25% of traffic onto the Hub.
- Featured Anton Gunn (MUSC), Mark Dickson (RSFH) and Renee Linyard-Gary (TUV) during virtual June 2020 Charleston Power Event [Reopening the Region for Business Part 3](#) to share the TCHIP with panelists providing an update on the initiative and the regions' response to the coronavirus pandemic.

Healthy Tri-County would like to acknowledge the participation of all community members, agencies, and advocates dedicated to carrying out the plan and making the Tri-County a safer and healthier place for ALL to live, work, and play.

BE THE CHANGE AND JOIN US!





HEALTHY Tri-County

Visit HealthyTriCounty.com
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Healthy Tri-County Core Partners

