Healthcare Disparities to Equity

ONE RURAL COMMUNITY’S APPROACH

NOVEMBER 21, 2019
Of all the forms of inequality, injustice in health care is the most shocking and inhumane.

Hertford County, NC

- Population of 24,136 (decrease from 2013-2016)
- Leading causes of death: Heart Disease, Cancer, Diabetes*

* According to the CDC in 2016, Heart Disease and Cancer were leading causes of death among Non-Hispanic African American males and females in the U.S.
Hertford County has a significantly larger proportion of Black or African American residents in comparison to NC.
In Comparison to North Carolina..

**LOWER RATES**

- **Birth Rate** - 9.3 per 1,000 live births *(12.0 in NC)*

- **Median Household Income** - $34,523, *(48,256 in NC)*.

- **Education Attainment Rate** - *(80.3%) of residents 25 or older with a high school degree or higher in comparison to NC *(86.3%)*

**HIGHER RATES**

- **Poverty Rate** - 24.4% live in poverty compared to *16.8% in NC*

- **0-64 years old with health insurance coverage** - *88.3% insured compared to 87.2% in NC*

*11.7% of Herford County population is uninsured*
Structural Racism
Race V. Racism
**THE ORIGINS OF REDLINING**

**Redlining** began in 1955 when the Home Owner’s Loan Corporation began producing maps of virtually every major city upon request of the Federal Home Loan Bank Board. Neighborhoods were color coded based on their desirability, from “A - First Grade” to “D - Fourth Grade.” Most often the “D” ranking neighborhoods were black communities, or other communities of minorities, while the “A” ranking neighborhoods were affluent white suburbs.¹

The maps were used by both public and private banks and loan offices to directly discriminate and refuse loans to residents of the “D” neighborhoods.

The Fair Housing Act of 1968 made discrimination during the process of selling a house illegal, yet redlining was not effectively outlawed until 1977. The Home Mortgage Disclosure Act of 1975 required transparency thus making redlining unfeasible, and was followed by the Community Reinvestment Act of 1977 that finally prohibited it.²
WARD A

• Public Schools
• Vidant Hospital
  • RCCHC
  • Hertford Co. Public Health Authority
• Amphitheatre
  • Ahoskie Recreation Center
• Vidant Wellness Center

WARD B

• 3 Tobacco Shops
• Increased Crime
• Diminishing Infrastructure
• Funeral Homes
• African American Churches
Ward A
Ward B

Ahoskie Police probe shooting

Victim airlifted Sunday morning to Vidant MC

From Staff Reports

AHOSKIE — One person is hospitalized after gunshots rang out in Ahoskie on Saturday night.

Meanwhile, the Ahoskie Police seek information on who was responsible for pulling the trigger.

APD Chief Troy Fitzhugh said his department received a call shortly before 11:30 p.m. in reference to gunshots being fired in the vicinity of Martin Luther King Jr. Drive and First Street.

"Shortly thereafter, at 11:36 p.m., we received a call from the hospital (Vidant Roanoke-Chowan) that a male had arrived there suffering from a gunshot wound," Fitzhugh said. "The gunshot victim was driven to the hospital by another individual."

The Chief added that his officers collected evidence in

See SHOOTING, Page 5A
Out in the Rural

THOMAS J. WARD JR.

WITH A FOREWORD BY H. JACK GEIGER
Health Equity

Everyone has the opportunity to attain their full health potential and no one is disadvantaged because of socially determined circumstances. (NC DHHS)

The absence of avoidable or remediable health differences among groups of people defined socially, economically, demographically or geographically. (WHO)

Everyone has the opportunity to attain their highest level of health. Inequities occur when barriers prevent individuals and communities from reaching their full potential. (American Public Health Association)
Health Equity Committee

Started 2016 as Health Literacy Committee
  ◦ Identified Uninsured, LGBTQ, Young Adult populations
  ◦ Created Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity training for staff and board December 2016

Re-established as Health Equity Committee 2017
Equity Initiatives

- Discounted Care & Nominal Fee
- Extended Hours of Operation
- Interpreter Services
- Farmworker Health Program

- Living Wage Adjustment (2016)
- Health Equity Committee (2017)
- Governing Board adopted the IHI Leadership Alliance Health Equity Call To Action (2018)
RCCHC Health Equity Committee

- 12 members
- 3 co-chairs
- Meets monthly
- *Voluntary* membership

Vidant Empathy Salons in 2018
Racial Equity Training 2019
Harvard Implicit Bias 2019
Identifying Disparities in Health Outcomes
Investigating how to decrease the gaps
Community Partnerships: Hertford Health Maintenance Alliance
IHI Health Equity Committee

Identifying Action Steps for every member
Some are focusing on staff diversity
Some are focusing on pay equity
Some are focusing on opportunity equity
RCCHC is focusing on Leadership Skill Development
Partnering with RCCHC Leadership Team to identify topics, teachers, schedule, etc.
Thank you!

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